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Prayers on Scripture Readings

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Prayers
On Scripture Readings,

FOR PRIVATE OR PASTORAL USE
AND FAMILY DEVOTION.

BY THE
REV. J. D. KNOWLES, M.A.,
VICAR OF GLOSSOP

London:
W. SKEFFINGTON & SON, 163, PICCADILLY, W.

1884.

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TO THE

REV. JAMES ECKERSLEY, M.A.,

VICAR OF WEDNESBURY,

IN HEARTFELT GRATITUDE FOR MUCH

KINDLY CRITICISM AND ENCOURAGEMENT

THIS BOOK IS INSCRIBED

BY HIS SINCERE FRIEND,

THE AUTHOR.

Preface.

THE lack of something in the character of the following pages has long been felt by the Author and several friends. As a rule, when a Reading of Scripture forms a part of the Family devotion, the succeding Prayers have no connection with the subject of the Lesson.

The following humble attempt to supply this want is affectionately submitted to the notice of fellow-churchmen.

There are special Readings, with Prayers thereon, for each week of the Christian Year, chiefly taken from the Epistle or Gospel for the Sunday.

The Sunday Readings may, however, be used on any day within the week, the other portions of the Book being taken either consecutively, or according to subject for the intervening days.

Full indices to the subjects have been added, in order to facilitate the selection of Readings to be used in the course of Pastoral Visitation.

The writer would beg most earnestly to deprecate any imputation of a design to supersede or in any way interfere with the perfect and exquisite Collects of the Prayer Book, which, in every Churchman's Household, will of course find a place in the family devotion.

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ADVENT I.

* GALATIANS IV. 1-7.

The Coming of the Lord.

O ETERNAL FATHER, Who, when the fulness of time was come, didst send forth the Eternal Son from the bosom of Thy love, to take upon Him our nature, and redeem us that were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption of sons: We thank and praise Thy Holy Name, that He, being born the true Son of a woman under the Law, and dying under that Law, which He so perfectly fulfilled, did purchase for Himself and ransom us who under the Law were guilty of death. We look to Thee, our Heavenly Father, as the children of Thy grace and mercy, and adopted in Thy well-beloved Son. Direct us by the Holy Spirit of Thy Christ, Whom Thou hast sent into our hearts, the Seal of our adoption. Increase in us Thy blessed gift from day to day, that He may teach us how to pray, and make our prayers acceptable to Thee, when brought before Thee by our Advocate, and offered in His own most Holy Name. Bond-slaves no longer in the service of the devil, keep us that we fall not back again from Thee, but live as children of Thy Love, in purity and holiness, in humble, earnest following of Him, our Saviour Christ. Thy sons in Him, with Him we are joint-heirs, expecting till Thou bring us to Thy Heavenly Kingdom. Let no fault of ours, we pray Thee, no continued sin or disobedience prevail to rob us of that glorious hope, that great and rich inheritance, won for us by the same, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

* Ep. First Sunday after Christmas.

ADVENT II.

* S. MATT. XXIV. 29-35.

The Holy Scriptures preparing for Christ's Second Coming.

O GOD, Who hast revealed in Thy Blessed Word the signs that shall precede and herald the last Coming of the Son of Man to judge the earth: Prepare our hearts to entertain the solemn warnings Thou hast given. Teach us so to mark and learn Thy Word of Truth, that we may not be taken unawares, when we shall see Him coming in the clouds of Heaven, with power and great glory. Guide us to live according to Thy Word, that we may greet the sign of the Son of Man with joy and hope, and not with fear and trembling, as the wicked of the world, who then shall see Him Whom they crucified. Preserve us blameless in our spirit, soul, and body, ready for His Coming. Help us in Thy strength to gird up the loins of our minds, and make us sober, hoping to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto us at His revelation. To us, in Thy good Providence, the everlasting Gospel has been preached, and we believe that Jesus died, and rose again, and will return from Heaven, whither He is gone with hosts of ministering angels. Enlighten more and more our hearts in this true faith, that no attacks of carping critics may prevail to shake our hope and trust in Thy sure Word of Truth, or turn aside our simple confidence and earnest striving to prepare against His Coming. Strengthen, Lord, our faith, and stablish Thou our hearts unblameable in holiness, that when the Christ, Who is our Life, shall appear, we may receive that crown of glory which the Righteous Judge has laid up for all those who look with love and joy to His appearing, through the same, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

* Gos. Sixth Sunday after Epiphany.

ADVENT III.

S. LUKE I. 5-17.

The Ministry preparing for Christ's Second Coming.

O, ALMIGHTY GOD, Who of Thy divine providence hast appointed divers orders in Thy Church, as Thou didst set apart the family of Aaron in their courses to provide the Temple Services, until the Coming of Thy Christ: Grant to the ministers and stewards of Thy Holy Church, that they may, like the holy Zacharias, walk before Thee righteously in all Thy laws and ordinances blameless. Vouchsafe to them that, in the execution of their office, they may see and know the Saviour Christ, and so prepare us for His Second Coming that we may look before with earnest faith and hope to His appearing. Shew to them the Angel of Thy mercy, when they offer up the incense of our prayers before Thee; and so guide them by Thy Holy Spirit that with joy they may look forward to the Coming of our Judge who shall reward each man according to his works. Bless unto us and all Thy people, all the means of grace Thou hast appointed in Thy Church, especially the preaching of Thy Word; that in the spirit and the power of Elias Thy messengers may draw together in the bonds of peace and love and unity all those whom sin and hate and selfishness had severed from each other and from Thee. Embolden them to preach the Truth, however unacceptable; to minister with reverence Thy Sacraments; to labour earnestly; and grant Thy people grace to recognize their Stewardship. Support and further with thy grace and blessing all their ministrations, that the vile and disobedient may be turned unto the wisdom of the just; that many may be called out of darkness unto light, and be made ready for the Lord when He shall come, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

ADVENT IV.

COLOSSIANS I. 9-19.

The Holy Spirit preparing for our Lord's Second Coming.

O THOU GOD of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give unto us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. Enlighten the eyes of our understanding, that we may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the Saints. Count us, we pray Thee, worthy of our noble calling, and fulfil in us the pleasure of Thy goodness, and the work of faith with power of the Holy Ghost, that so the Name of Jesus Christ our Saviour may be glorified in us, and we in Him. O make all grace abound toward us. Fill us with Thy Spirit and the fruits of righteousness. Strengthen us with might according to Thy glorious power, unto all patience, courage, and long-suffering, with joyfulness, that we may wait upon the coming of our Lord in stedfast faith. We thank thee, Father, Who in Christ hast made us meet to be partakers of the glorious heritage of Saints in light. O let us never grieve that Holy Spirit wherewith Thou hast sealed us, nor quench His guiding Light, lest our last state be worse than was the first; but guard and sanctify these bodies for a pure and Holy Temple wherein He may dwell. Grant that we forfeit not the crown of glory Thou hast promised, nor fall away from that bright Kingdom of Thy Son to which Thou hast translated us. And keep us by Thy Spirit in that Church which He hath purchased with His precious Blood, that when He cometh to divide His own sheep from the goats we may be found at His right hand, and enter with Him into His eternal joy, Who liveth with Thee and the Holy Spirit, reigning King of kings and Lord of lords for evermore. Amen.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS.

* S. LUKE II. 25-35.

Discernment of Christ.

O GOD, Who in Thy Holy Word hast promised that to him that ordereth his conversation aright Thou wilt shew the salvation of God, and to those that serve the Lord and love His Name that Thou wilt make them joyful in Thy House of Prayer: Prepare us by Thy Holy Spirit that, like holy Simeon, we may come in faith and holiness to see the Lord's Christ; to discern His Body in those mysteries which hide from unbelievers the true Prophet, Priest, and King. Grant us that living faith by which we may receive into our hands the very Bread of Life, and entertain in purest love and glad devotion that Eternal Guest, Who in His mercy comes to faithful hearts, and takes up His abode therein. Make bare, O Lord, Thy Mighty Arm in the eyes of all the nations, that all the ends of the earth may see the salvation of our God. Reveal to all men, even to those who walk in darkness and dwell in the land of the shadow of death, the glorious light of Thy blessed Gospel. Give to the Ministers and Stewards of Thy mysteries the strength of Thy Holy Spirit, that with grace and power they may proclaim the glad tidings of "liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison to them that are bound," for that Christ is come, the One sufficient Sacrifice for sins of men. Acknowledge us in Him; for on His Flesh and Blood we feed, and thus are very members of His Body, once made Flesh for us; and open Thou our hearts, O God, that we may welcome Him in whatsoever lowly form He veils His presence, and with the Church on Earth and all the company of Heaven, may laud and magnify Thy glorious Name, through Him, Our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

* G. Purification of V. M.

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS.

* S. LUKE II. 9-11.

The Marvels of God's power.

ALMIGHTY GOD, our Heavenly Father, Who hast so surrrounded us with miracles of grace and power, we know not whence they are, except that they proceed from unseen fountains of Eternal Love; enlighten Thou our minds that we may recognize Thy Hand in every dispensation, and submit to Thy all-wise direction. Guard us from all presumptuous questioning, or idle cavilling at what we cannot understand, and give us grace and faith that we may trust Thy tender care and providence, and rest assured that though we know not now all secrets of Thy Working, we shall know hereafter, if our faith endure but to the end. We cannot trace the steps by which we were created, or by which Thou nourishest our bodies or our souls; prevent us, then, from all impatient prying in upon the silent progress of Thy handiwork, as knowing all Thou doest must be well; for Thou in love art working in and for us, guiding all things for our good and Thine eternal glory. Teach us to adore Thy power, not with slavish fear, but with a thankful heart, as seeing in it tender kindness, sympathy and friendship to Thy children. Help us to obey that loving counsel of Thy Church which bids us do as Jesus has commanded, that in all things we may follow Him and do His will. So wilt Thou empty these cold hearts of ours of all the vain and worthless elements of this world, and instead produce therein the rich invigorating graces of Thy Spirit. Fill us with the spiritual wine which maketh glad the heart of man. Renew these vessels Thou hast chosen for the holding of that precious gift, and make us live henceforth in faith and holiness, refreshed and strengthened ever from the chalice of Thy Love, in Jesus Christ. Amen.

* M. L. 2 Christmas Day.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY.

S. LUKE II. 41-49. (Gos.)

Our Father's business.

O GOD, Who hast graciously given to us free access everywhere to Thy Holy Jerusalem: Grant us grace that we may highly value, and with diligence and thankfulness make use of that inestimable privilege, and with gladness keep that blessed Feast of the Redemption which Thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ has wrought for us, seeking Thee constantly in Thy Holy Temple, and appearing before Thee to commemorate Thy Saving Mercies, and to offer up ourselves afresh to Thee. Train up our young ones in the fear and nurture of Thy Holy Name, and in affection for Thy Holy House. Help us to lead them to Thy presence, that they so may learn to love Thee as their Father, Who will order all their lives for good. Make it our chief business here to seek the Lord, and so direct us that we may cast off all cares and vanities of this life, all distractions of the World, that we may give our whole lives to this search, and find at last the peaceful joys of sweet communion with Thee. Imbue our common studies and the duties of our daily lives, with sensible regard for Thee, and earnest care for our salvation, doing all as to the Lord, and not to men. Thou givest unto us a work for each to do, and callest us unto Thy House, where we may learn Thy will and worship Thee. Make Thine these hearts of ours, that we may store therein the holy lessons of Thy love, and thankfully receive the strength and succour of Thy Holy Spirit through those channels which Thou hast ordained in Thy Church. Help us to prove ourselves Thy true and faithful children, busy ever in our Father's business, making our whole lives acceptable to Thee, and storing up the treasures of Thy love and favour in the blessed Home Thou hast prepared for us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY.

S. LUKE II. 50-52 (Part Gos.)
The Holy Childhood.

O GOD, Who choosest weak things of the world to confound the things that are mighty, and base things of the world, and things that are despised, yea, and and things which are not, to bring to nought the things that are: Instruct us by the Holy Childhood of Thy Blessed Son at Nazareth, in prompt submission to Thy Holy Will, that we may gladly glory in infirmities, and lowliness of men's esteem, so that the power of Christ may rest upon us. He came to do Thy will and not His own, so teach us to submit to every ordinance of Thine, and all authority placed over us by Thee, that we may so fulfil all righteousness. He rested in that lowly home, fulfilling all the duties of His humble home, content to wait unknown, unmarked by all, but offering His human will in daily sacrifice to Thee: so teach us, Lord, to set aside all human pride, and hallow with Thy presence every poor and humble home; for with the meek and lowly Thou wilt dwell, with Him also that is of a poor and contrite spirit. Help us to keep before us that divine example, that as children, we may walk in innocence and peace; as sons, in due obedience and control; as labourers, in diligence and willing service. Train us in the daily exercise of self-denial, and the practice of all holy virtues, moulding us to harmony with Thy revealed Will. By pain give to us patience; by infirmities, reliance on Thine Arm; that as we grow in years we may increase in grace. Guard us, Thy children, in the keeping of Thy Holy Church, and nourish us with Holy doctrine and the Bread of Heaven, till we come in fulness of Thy strength, to take our places in the ranks of blessed souls who worship round Thy Throne, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY.

S. MATT. VIII. 8-10 (Part Gos).
God glorified in our unworthiness.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, Who didst manifest and commend Thy love toward us, in that "while we were yet sinners" Thou didst send Thy Son to die for us: Grant that we may see and know our great unworthiness, and so perceive the glory of Thy Love. Thou didst reveal Thy wrath from Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men; so in these latter days hast Thou revealed Thy mercy by Christ Jesus, sending Him into the world that we might live through Him, and shewing thus Thy love herein, not that we loved Thee, but that Thou didst love us, and send Thy Son to be the propitiation for our sins. We know, O Lord, that we are most unworthy that Thou shouldest come beneath our roof, but Thou hast washed and made us clean, and swept and garnished these our hearts, that in them as a temple Thou might dwell. But we have many ways defiled that holy place, that house which Thou didst deign to make Thine own. How many servants of our sinful nature, which the promptings of Thy Holy Spirit should have kept in due obedience, we have suffered recklessly to over-run and desecrate that temple! We must confess indeed, O Lord, we are not worthy of the least of all the mercies and the truth which Thou hast shewed to Thy servants, but Thou art the same good Lord, Whose property is always to have mercy, glorify Thy Holy Name in our unworthiness. Speak the word, and so shall we be healed in the precious Blood of Jesus, Who is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto Thee by Him. And so conform us to that Holy Pattern, that when Christ, Who is our life, shall appear, then shall we also appear with Him in glory, through the same, our Saviour. Amen.

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY.

S. MATT. VIII. 23-27 Part Gos.)
Power of the sleeping Christ.

O LORD JESU CHRIST, Who in these last times wast manifest for us, who by Thee do believe in God, that raised Thee up from the dead: Shew forth Thy power to us, that so, although we see Thee not, believing we with joy unspeakable may yet rejoice. Make us to walk by faith and not by sight, while we look not at those things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, while the things which are not seen are eternal. Though we struggle through the stormy waves and trackless deeps of this tempestuous life, and all the troubles, toils, anxieties, and cares thereof surge up around us, and our onward progress is opposed and hindered by the secret sins, the errors, failings and short-comings of our mortal nature; let us not be overwhelmed with perils of the body, or dangers of the soul. Permit no doubts or difficulties to make shipwreck of our slender faith, or make us to forget Thy Presence. Thou art here, though, it may seem unto our trembling souls, asleep. Amidst the trials and temptations that surround us, make us to remember that we have Thee with us. Teach our troubled hearts to rest in Thee. Be Thou the ever present object of our faith, that in Thy calm we may find peace. To Thee we make our humble cry, "O let not the waterfloods overflow us; neither let the deep swallow us up!" Hear us, O Lord, for Thy lovingkindness is good; and turn to us according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies. Hide not Thy face in time of trouble. Hear us, for Thy mercies' sake, and by Thy grace deliver us whenever trials or temptations rise, and say unto the winds and waves, "Be still!" that we may find in Thee our sure salvation, for the sake of Thy most Blessed Name. Amen.

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY.

S. MATT. XIII. 37-43 (Part Gos).
The Judgment of the Tares.

ALMIGHTY GOD, we do confess that any good that is in us comes of the grace of Jesus Christ; and of ourselves there is nothing that in Thy sight can find favour. To Thy free Love and Mercy do we owe all good we now enjoy, and all our hopes of future blessedness: We therefore praise and magnify Thy glorious Name. Thanks be to Thee for Thy unspeakable gift, for all things are for our sakes, that Thy abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. Renew in us Thy Heavenly Grace, the Spirit of Thy Power. that as children of Thy Kingdom we may live according to our holy calling, and shew forth to men the character of those whom Thou hast chosen to be heirs of glory. Guard us, lest we lose the end of our election, and become the children of the wicked one. and so inherit with him wrath and condemnation. Keep us from the devilish work of sowing evil by our words or conduct, lest in other hearts it should strike root and grow up to a woeful harvest. Make us sober, vigilant, against that roaring lion who doth walk about endeavouring to sow the baneful seed of evil dispositions in our hearts. Increase in us the grace of watchfulness and prayer, lest while we sleep the enemy should gain possession of our souls, and bring us into danger of Thy judgment. Multiply in us the fruits of holiness. that when Thy Angel-reapers shall come down to gather from Thy Kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity, we may escape the furnace of remorse, and gnashing of despair, and may be gathered to Thy everlasting garner, there to live and ripen in the brightness of Thy glory, through our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY.

S. MATT. XXIV. 27-31 (Part Gos.)
Preparation for His Coming.

O LORD, Thou Son of Man, and Judge of all men, so prepare us by Thy grace, that when Thou comest in Thy Majesty, as lightning from the East, with sudden glory from Thy Throne in Heaven to judge the world, we may be found not buried in our sins, but watching, and awake to welcome Thee in humble faith and hope. Reveal Thyself to us, that we may know Thee now, and see Thee in the Mysteries that veil Thy Presence from our mortal sight, acknowledging Thee ever midst the prayers and praises of Thy Holy Church; that when Thou comest at the latter day, we may know Thee Who Thou art, and hasten with great joy to meet Thee. Enlightened by Thy Word of Truth, and armed against the fallacies and errors of false teachers, strengthen us in grace that, trained in purity and holiness, and working humbly in Thy Church, we may with faith and hope await Thy Coming. Teach us to set our hopes on Heaven, that, while we live here, we may have our conversation there, and look to that "continuing city," whose foundations never shall be moved. Help us now to bear the Cross, and follow Thee, in meekness and in doing good, unshaken by the contradictions of the world around us, finding in Thy shame our glory; knowing that Thy Second Coming shall not be, as once, in lowliness and scorn. but "in the clouds of Heaven, with power and great glory." Make us love Thy Cross, and crucify within ourselves all lusts and passions of the carnal mind, that when we see Thy sign in Heaven we may know it for our own, the sign of our salvation, and rejoice with all Thy Holy Angels and the numberless elect, whom Thou, Lord, hast redeemed with Thy precious Blood. Amen.

SEPTUAGESIMA.

S. MATT. XX. 1-7 (Gos.)

Prompt Service in the Vineyard.

O GOD, the Householder and Master over this Thy Church and Vineyard, Who hast called us, and set us in this life to do a work for Thee: We pray Thee give us grace and strength to labour with all earnestness and zeal, and do our duty in that state of life to which it pleaseth Thee to call us, working earnestly within Thy Church whatever Thou dost set before us. Suffer not our days to pass in wanton, idle dreams, as if we counted all the years our own, to spend in ease and indolent self-seeking, with no future set before us. when we must give up to Thee a due account. Remind us ever of the wages Thou hast promised, everlasting life, and an inheritance that fadeth not away, eternal in the Heavens. Set our hearts unto the words of Thy most holy Law, which Thou hast laid before us, lest we deem it but a vain thing. for it is our life, to keep all Thy commandments, and to walk in all Thy ways. So shalt Thou open out to us Thy promised treasure, and bless all the work that falleth to our hand to do. Help us to hold on our way, that we may grow in strength and grace, for "they that love Thee shall be as the sun, when He goeth forth in His might." In Thy great mercy speak unto the hearts of all who have so long withstood Thy Voice, still pleading with them, that they may, ere it be too late, hear Thy loving call, and turn to Thee. And though, it may be, many years are lost, and they have failed most grievously in prompt obedience to Thy Will, Thy Mercy, and the Passion of the Saviour yet may fill up all defects, and full salvation may reward them through the merits of Thy Christ. Amen.

SEXAGESIMA.

S. LUKE VIII. 11-15 (Part Gos.)
Preparation for the Seed.

ALMIGHTY GOD, we pray Thee, prosper so our hearts with Thy preventing grace, that when the holy seed is sown we may receive it in a genial soil, where it may spring up to eternal life. Remove all hard obstructions that may rise from carelessness or heedless traffic in habitual sin. Close them to the constant passage of suggestions from the evil one, the hardening round of business or of pleasure, and the vain excitements which are apt to fill our days, and leave no time for thoughts of Thee, or exercises of religion. Keep them from the evil influence of worldly maxims, base inducements, and the vile pursuit of earthly interests. Break them up and soften them with Thine all-powerful Hand, that each sweet promise of Thy Gospel, every pure and loving message, every lofty precept and deep mystery, may sink therein, and grow up unto holiness. Permit us not to trust in sudden transports of imagined safety, or false spiritual joys, but give us grace to persevere in stedfast godliness. Teach us to serve Thee for Thyself, not for the seeming pleasure of well-doing, constant in the time of dryness and depression, as when all seemed bright and glorious to us. Root out from us all self-seeking thoughts and covetousness of this world's goods or pleasures, lest they grow and hide or choke the holy seed. Nor let us trust in any righteousness of ours, in mere respectability of conduct, or the pleasing praise and flattery of others. Give us room for earnest prayers, good resolutions, fervent charity, to rise unchecked and flourish. Grant us patience to preserve Thy holy Word, patience to live according to it, patience to suffer for it, with entire trust in Thy great goodness, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

QUINQUAGESIMA.

S. LUKE XVIII. 35-43 (Part Gos.)
For Spiritual Insight.

O KING AND SAVIOUR JESUS, Thou art passing by, and we are blind by nature, and we cannot see Thee as we ought; poor and without resources of our own, we pray for guidance of Thy Holy Spirit, that our hearts may recognize our darkness, and seek from Thee a true enlightenment. Direct our footsteps after Thee, that we may seize on all occasions of Thy grace, and gladly seek Thy presence in Thy Holy Word and Sacraments, and all the ordinances of Thy love. Thou drawest near, O pass not from our notice till we feel Thy mercy, and embrace Thy willingness to save our souls. We pray Thee, suffer no distractions of the world nor any well-meant interference of mistaken friends to keep us back, or give discouragement to our devotion. Help our failing faith, and strengthen our weak knees, that we may persevere in spite of all, and come to Thee for grace. When all seems dark around, and other helpers fail, in Thee we know we have "a great High Priest, who was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Embolden us to come for grace and mercy in our time of need, in full assurance that Thou wilt be open to our prayers, and fulfil the desire of them that fear Thee. Make us know the true need of our souls, that we may will what most is needful for us, even that we may receive our sight. Clear from our eyes the mists that overcloud them; lighten and lift up our faith, that we may see things Heavenly, and know and love our God. Shew us the way that leadeth to eternal life. Reveal the true hearts round us, the communion of Saints, the ministering Angels, who are sent to minister to us, the heirs of Heaven, through Thee, our Lord. Amen.

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT.

S. MATT. IV. 1-11 (Gos.)

For Strength to Resist Temptation.

O LORD JESUS CHRIST, Who, as God, created all things, and givest food to every living creature; Who, as God and Man, with five loaves and two fishes, didst feed five thousand men besides women and children; nay, Who art Thyself the very Bread by which we live eternally, and yet for our example wast content to suffer hunger: Teach us to adore Thy wondrous love, before Whom thousand times ten thousand stand to minister, for that among the wild beasts in the wilderness Thou didst subject Thyself to trial and temptation for our sakes. Straight from Thy Baptism, and as soon as the descending Dove had rested on Thee, Thou wast led into the desert, there to suffer all the onslaughts of the devil; so when we have been borne up by spiritual joy, or happy confidence of progress, suddenly temptation comes; Oh! strengthen us to bear it as Thou didst! Guard us against the evil promptings of our carnal appetites, and frailness of our nature. Teach us to look for better sustenance than earthly bread, that, feeding on the Word of God, we may be raised up unto higher things, and find our life in Thee. Remove far from us pride, which would exalt us over others, breeding over-confidence in fancied privilege, and tempting to presumptuous security. Keep us from craving for the high esteem of men, and guide us in the common path of duty, trusting to the care of God therein, whatever trials come. Defend us from pursuing evil eminence by means unworthy Thee; and in all troubles and temptations cheer us with the ministry of angels, and the comforts of Thy Holy Spirit, that, resisting prayerfully the evil one, we may in Thy strength conquer gloriously. Amen.

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT.

S. MATT. XV. 21-25 (Part Gos.)
Children Vexed with a Devil.

O HEAVENLY FATHER, Who in Thy exceeding love hast made us Thy adopted children in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Thine own beloved Son, have mercy on us, for we need Thy mercy. Though regenerate, and members of Thy Christ, there yet remaineth in us that infection of our human nature which obeyeth not Thy holy Law ; although in Thy all-pure, all-holy Law we inwardly delight, yet in our members reigns another law, warring against the law of our mind, and bringing us into captivity to the law of sin which is in our members. "The flesh lusteth against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh." And yet again we cry to Thee to help us. Keep us ever in true union with Christ, for unto such remains no condemnation. Thou, O Lord, canst strengthen us yet more and more in grace, and help us to abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul. But yet another adversary strives against our soul's salvation. The devil vexes grievously Thy children. He has come down unto us, "having great wrath because he hath but a short time," an unclean spirit striving with unceasing guile to gain possession of Thy dwelling place, our heart, the temple of Thy Blessed Spirit. Lord, by Thine almighty power, Conqueror of sin and death, defend us lest he get advantage over us. Renew in us the graces of Thy Holy Spirit day by day, that we may manfully resist him, stedfast in the Faith. Recover us from all his snares, and lead us captives to Thy will. Thy children, though unworthy of the least of all Thy mercies, we beseech Thee save us from our enemy, that we may love and serve Thee all our lives, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT.

S. LUKE XI. 21-26 (Part Gos.)
The Unclean Spirit Returning.

ALMIGHTY GOD, Who art alone our Strength, Thou seest how the enemy still takes possession of our hearts, as one who has forgotten all Thy victories, for lust, and blasphemy, and hatred surge around us; selfishness usurps our souls, and coldness, carelessness, and self-indulgence fill our hearts, which should be only Thine. We pray Thee, Lord, arise, and come in Thy great might. Let us not give up the struggle to enjoy the world's peace, but still fight beneath Christ's banner against Thy foes and ours. Let not Satan get advantage over us, and leave us not to be misled by his devices. Brace us with Thine armour, that we may be able to withstand his wiles and onslaughts. Gird the loins of our mind, and make us sober, hoping to the end for the grace that is to be revealed in us at the revelation of the Saviour Jesus Christ. Make this our true rejoicing, "the testimony of our conscience that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world." Thou hast cleansed our heart in Baptism, and renewed it by the operation of Thy Holy Spirit, so the evil one has been cast out, but still he seeketh to return, and striveth still to occupy this house of Thine. O let him find no ready entrance. Fill us with good thoughts and godly practices, and furnish us with every Christian grace. Enrich us with the ornaments of peace and love, a meek and lowly spirit, stedfast faith, and earnest holiness, that there may be no room for other guests. Employ us constantly in works of good, and following of Christ, that Thou alone mayest dwell an honoured guest within us. Guard us by Thy Spirit till Thy glory shall appear in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT.

S. JOHN VI. 1-8 (Part Gos.)
Refreshment in Penance.

O GRACIOUS FATHER, Who delightest most in shewing mercy and pity, and comfortest those that are cast down, and refreshest those who are weary and heavy-laden : Grant us such a deep contrition and repentance for our many sins that the dew of Thy blessing may refresh our over-laden souls, and we may come as penitents and find from Thee sustaining grace, and strength for future labours in Thy service. Pilgrims in this narrow way, we faint and falter in the toilsome journey. We fain would cry in hopeless sadness, "Who will shew us any good?" Hungry, and wasting in despair, we cry, "O who shall give us bread that we may eat?" But let us not distrust Thy mercy. Ever watchful, Thou regardest us with loving sympathy and tender care, and Thou providest bountifully, as for our earthly needs, so much the more for spiritual food. Lord, guard us from despising those ordained channels which convey Thy heavenly gifts. Common and simple they may seem to unbelief, as waters of the Jordan to the leper, insufficient for the craving of our starving souls; in outward seeming but as five small loaves to feed as many thousands. Yet we know that out of nothing Thou canst make a world. Thine are the cattle on a thousand hills; the very sparrows feed from Thy sustaining hand; and we are Thine own children, crying in the wilderness; in Jesus Christ, Thine own beloved Son, Thou lovest us beyond the love of men. O grant us grace, that we may ever look to Thee in humble faith, that we may feed upon the blessed Bread of Life Eternal, and the wine that flows from out the pierced side of Jesus, and be satisfied through Him who liveth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one God for evermore. Amen.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT—PASSION SUNDAY.

S. JOHN VIII. 39-47 (Part Gos.)
The Knowledge of True Children.

ALMIGHTY FATHER, we, Thy children, pray Thee to prevent us from all boasting of our privileges, all contrasting of ourselves with others to their disadvantage. Thee, indeed, we claim to be our Father, but, alas! we have lived so unworthily of Thee that scarcely dare we call ourselves Thy children. Give us true contrition, that we may confess our base ingratitude to Thee, our great unlikeness to Thy Son, our elder Brother. Make us to love Him, and to follow His divine example, Who came forth from Thee; Whom Thou didst send a messenger from Heaven, full of love to tell of things divine, and shew forth in His life Thy goodness; so commending to us all Thy mercy. Frame our hearts to such a likeness of Thy blessed Son, that we may prove ourselves indeed His brethren, and so dare to call Thee "Father." Give us understanding, and the bright enlightenment of Thy pure Spirit, that we may perceive Thy Word, which speaketh in an unknown tongue to worldly ears, for things of earth receive not things of Heaven. Grant us eyes to see, and ears to hear, and make us well acquainted with the language of our Father-land, that when Thou callest us we may be glad to hear, and ready to come in with joy among the blessed ones who have their conversation there. Close up our ears to all persuasions of the evil one, who tries to tempt us from Thee, lest he lead us from Thy side; but rather open Thou our hearts and minds to every lesson of the truth that is in Jesus. He alone is true; and He alone the way that leadeth to eternal life. Direct us in it till we come, partakers of His glory, to the bliss of our eternal Home, through the merits of the same, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE EASTER, PALM SUNDAY.

*S. MATT. XXI. 1-11.

The Entry into Jerusalem.

O LORD JESU CHRIST, Son of the living God, and King of glory, Who by this day's solemnities dost bring before us the memory of Thy triumph, which ushered in Thy passion: We adore and bless Thee for that Thou, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, yet madest Thyself of no reputation, and didst take upon Thee the form of a servant, and wast made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, didst humble Thyself, and become obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross. At Thy Name, blessed Jesus, we and all in Heaven, and all in earth, and things beneath the earth, do bow in humble adoration, and confessing that Thou art the Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Teach us to follow Thy Example in humility and meekness, Who, coming to Jerusalem, didst vouchsafe in lowliness to ride upon an ass's colt, and, amidst the praises and hosannas of the multitudes who flocked to meet Thee, didst shed tears of pity for the doomed city, and the ruin of ungrateful souls. Give us true perceptions of the vanity of this world, and our own unworthiness, and mortify within us all esteem of earthly praises, that we may with joy take up Thy Cross and follow after Thee along the painful road that leadeth nevertheless unto eternal glory. Fill us with the sense of Thy astounding love, that we may come to love Thee truly, and express our gratitude in body as in soul by worshipping and serving Thee with humble reverence and earnest penitence; and striving so to live by Thy Example, cleansed by Thy most precious Blood, that we be known for Thy disciples, and be welcomed to the Father's Love, for Thy dear sake. Amen.

* Pt. Gospel 1st S. Advent.

EASTER DAY.

S. JOHN XX. 1-10. (Gos.)
The Resurrection.

O GRACIOUS JESUS, grant to us such reverential faith, such penitential love, that we may ever look with cheerful hope and thankfulness towards that sepulchre, from which, as on this day, Thou didst arise; that unto us the tomb may henceforth be as the resort of blessed angels not the dwelling of corruption. Lighten Thou our eyes, that we may see Thee close at hand, Thy locks bedewed with blood-drops of Thine agony, yet shedding healing "as the dew of herbs," in Thy compassion drying all our tears, and bidding us rejoice, for "Christ is risen indeed." O blessed day, which brings glad tidings of great joy, our Saviour's second Birthday to the life of glory; day of first-fruits from the dead; day bringing life and immortality to light! Ere while we saw Thee hanging on the Cross, despised of men, and stricken for our sins: but now resplendent in Thy risen glory; no more clothed in mocking purple, but revealed as King of kings; no more fighting for us in Thy passion, but victorious in the triumph of Thy Resurrection. For our sins Thou diedst; for our justification Thou hast risen again! Thy Passion took away the burden of our sins; Thy Resurrection brings us hope and gladness, for we see the gates of Heaven opened, and the hosts of angels waiting to admit us to Thy glorious presence: "Son of God with power," come and fill our hearts with living faith, that we with Thee may die to sin, and rise with Thee to newness of Eternal Life. Made one with Thee, we need not fear, in life or death. No sin, or doubt, or sorrow more may triumph o'er us, for Thou leadest on, the Conqueror, in Whom we conquer. Make us share with Thee the crowns of glory in the courts of Heaven, for Thy blessed sake. Amen.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EASTER.

S. JOHN XX. 19-23 (Gos.)
The Blessing of Peace.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Saviour, Who in parting from Thy disciples didst leave them the Blessing of Peace, saying, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give unto you,—not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid": Give unto us that "Peace which passeth understanding," that our hearts may not be troubled nor afraid at any opposition of the world. Send unto us Thy Comforter, the Holy Ghost, to teach us all things, and bring all things unto our remembrance, whatsoever Thou hast said. Enlighten with Thy power our darkened minds. Refresh our memories. Comfort our anxious hearts; that we may look to Thee, and rest in perfect confidence and peace. Recall to us the wonders of Thy Resurrection. Mighty were the gifts dispensed, the promises vouchsafed, the powers declared and given to Thy chosen few. But far beyond Thy greatness, power, and victory, did shine Thy love unspeakable in pierced hands and wounded side. Open to us that tender heart of Thine, that therein we may find a refuge from all evil. Shew us again Thy great redeeming love. Fill up our hearts with joy that none can take away. Confirm to us that gift of grace, that power of benediction, which to Aaron and Thy priests of old was given, and renewed to Thy Apostles, "Peace be with you:" the healing balm distilled from out Thy wounded side, and pressed upon our brow by those dear pierced hands! Preserve within Thy Holy Church Thy ministry of reconciliation. Shed on these dry hearts of ours Thy dew of absolution, granting us Thy peace. Enrich our faith, unite us more and more with Thee, to Whom be glory, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, for evermore. Amen.

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER.

S. JOHN X. 11-16. (Gos.
The Good Shepherd.

O LAMB OF GOD, slain from the foundation of the world, that takest away the sins of all men: Fix our eyes upon Thyself and all Thy sufferings, that when we see Thee on the Cross, we may receive from Thee that spirit of the Cross, and strength and comfort inexpressible from Thine atoning Blood. As one that careth for His own, which He hath bought at an exceeding price, so carest Thou for us. For all and each, as though there were none other, gathering the lambs within Thine Arm, and carrying the weak and tender in the bosom of Thy love. And we like sheep have gone astray. Lord, seek us out, and bring us back unto the Bishop of our souls. Restore the broken members with Thy healing balm. Bind up the wounded spirits. Lead us forth beside the living waters of salvation. With Thy rod and staff encourage, comfort us, although we tread the valley of the shadow of death. "All other helpers fail." The hireling flees, and leaves us to the threatening danger. Guides of worldly knowledge, fleshly wisdom, lead us wrong, forsake us in the time of trouble. Thou alone hast not forsaken. Thou alone dost love us to the end; for we are Thine; none else can be to us as Thou art. Thou dost know each one, and as the sunbeam penetrates the darkest room, so Thine Eye searcheth every heart, and where it reacheth with the light comes love. Teach us to know Thee as Thou knowest us, and, knowing thus, to love Thee. So the Father Himself shall love us; us in Thee, and Thee in us. O make us as Thou wast in this world, that the Father may behold the sheep of His own pasture, following Thee, until we come to lie down in the pastures of Thy love, one flock, in Thy One Fold for evermore. Amen.

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER.

S. JOHN XVI. 16-22 (Gos)
"A Little While."

O GOD, in Whose sight we are in this world but as strangers and sojourners: Defend us by Thy grace, that we may keep from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, and conquer in Thy strength the enemies of our salvation. Help us to walk no longer trammelled by the bonds of sense and sight, and busy cares of this short life, but as becomes the citizens of Heaven. Guide us in all places and all times to walk and live as those who look beyond to an inheritance not of this world, but stored up for us in the new Jerusalem. Teach us daily so to live as though we were each day to die; to speak as though each word might be the last recorded in Thy Book; to act as though each moment were the last, and that account filled up which we must answer for before Thy Throne of Judgment. "Yet a little while," and all the trials of the world shall end. We mourn awhile, with all Thy Church, the Master taken from us; Him we see, not with these bodily eyes; as in a mirror, veiled from our imperfect eyes, we see Him but in shadow, but we know that He is near. O grant us Faith, that we may know what meaneth this, "A little while." Thou knowest all our secret thoughts, and how at times the days seem long, because our Lord delays His Coming; give us wisdom from above, an understanding heart, that we may know our latter end, the shortness of our days. Now for a season heaviness and mourning press us down through manifold temptations. Though we have the first-fruits of the Spirit, yet we groan within ourselves, still waiting for the full adoption of Thy children. Turn our mourning into joy, the joy of Faith and Hope again to see Him in His glory, in "a little while." Amen.

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER.

S. JOHN XVI. 5-14. (Gos.)
Preparation for the Comforter.

O FATHER OF LIGHTS, with Whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning; Who biddest us for "yet a little while," to raise our thoughts from earth to Heaven: Teach us how, amidst these manifold changes of the world, we may within the veil secure our hearts at anchor, and so be at rest. Enlighten Thou our minds, that we may seek that good and perfect gift which Thou bestowest from above, partaking Thy divine unchangeableness; the Light that never wanes, to which no shadow clings, which goes down never. While the vain and selfish seek but after husks of this world's good; while many say, "Oh, who will show us any good?" Lord, lift Thou up the light of Thy countenance upon us. Raise our hearts to Heaven; fix our treasure there, where He Whom we have loved has gone before, to make a place for us, and that He might send down the Comforter. Prepare us to receive that Holy Guest, the Spirit of the Truth, that He may guide us, as the fiery pillar in the wilderness, into the Way of Truth, that Living Way which is Thy Christ. Inspire Thy Church and every member of it with that power which can alone bring all things into harmony and peace. Bring all men to acknowledge Him Who is the glory of the Father, even Thy beloved Son. Unite them to His Body, making them partakers in those precious gifts He purchased by His death, that so they may by Thine abundant grace prepare for His return in glory. Change us all, who now behold as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, to that same image, "from glory to glory, as by the Spirit of the Lord," that we may greet with joy the gifts He sends us in His Love, through Him Who died for us and rose again. Amen.

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER.

S. JOHN XVI. 23-33 (Gos.)
Prayer for the Spirit.

LORD JESU CHRIST, Thou Son of the Most High, by Whom alone we dare approach the Father: Hear us when we lift our voices up in prayer, and grant, according to Thy promise, whatsoever we may ask in Thy Name. In our own name we can ask for nought. But Thou hast promised, and in earnest faith we come to Thee desiring, even the best of all things, the perfection of all joy and blessing, even the Comforter Himself, that He may dwell with us for ever. At Thy Father's throne Thou intercedest for us in Thy love, and whosoever loveth Thee is loved of Him. And being parts of Thee, and very members of Thy Body, quickened by His Spirit, we are objects of the Father's love. O suffer us not to break this holy bond, that, joined with Thee in true obedience, He may never cease to guard and bless His children; sending us the Faith that prompts our prayers, the Love that makes them fervent by the workings of that Holy Spirit sent through Thee. Thou knowest what is in man, for Thou art the Son of God; send down Thy Holy Spirit when we fail through fear, or doubt, to strengthen our belief, that in Thee we may find that peace which passeth understanding. Through Thy Word it cometh; make us hear and love that Word, that we may flee to Thee when most our enemies do threaten, and secure the refuge of eternal love. In all things make us more than conquerors through Thee, Who lovest us. Grant us that perfect stedfast Faith which overcomes the world. Send down the gift of Thy Most Holy Spirit, filling us with all good thoughts, and guiding us to holy deeds, that we may offer true and undefiled worship, lifting, without wavering, pure hands in Thy Most Holy Name. Amen.

THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION DAY.

S. JOHN XV. 26-27, XVI. 1-4 (GOS.)
For True Enlightenment.

ALMIGHTY GOD, vouchsafe to us a pure and perfect faith in Thee our Father, Who hast given Thine own beloved Son to die for us, and Thy pure Spirit to enlighten us. Renew in us that Holy Comforter, the Fountain of all peace, and light, and joy; our strong security in this disturbing world; our firm reliance midst unstable doubts. With Him to help and succour us, we need not fear; establish Thou our faith in Him, the living Spring of Life. Led by His grace, enlightened by His power, embolden us to witness to the world that we have been with Jesus; that we know and love Him; for in His ways we have walked, and heard His words, and had Him for our Friend. And when we find the wise and great of this world scoffing at His Name, neglecting His religion, scorning His ordinances, by that Holy Spirit strengthen us that we may dare before the world to take His side, as knowing that this world shall pass away, but every word of Thine shall stand for ever. So it ever hath been. In this world Thy greatest servants have been most despised, reviled, forsaken, driven away, and put to death. For so the nearer came they to their great example. No honour in this world was worthy of them, so Thou gavest them instead the crown of glory. Bid us tremble, therefore, when all men speak well of us, and make us search our spirits lest we be going wrong. If Thou shouldst make us share the cup of shame and suffering Thy martyrs had to drink, O make us glad to take it as a sign of Thy unceasing love. Enlighten us that we may know both Thee and Christ; and firmly establish in our hearts His word, and due remembrance of His gracious warnings, that we may be ready when the time shall come to enter to Thy glory for His sake. Amen.

WHIT-SUNDAY.

S. JOHN XIV. 15-31 (Gos.)
The Gift of the Holy Ghost.

O JESU CHRIST, our Advocate with God, as our High Priest now offering up Thine own most precious Blood, and pleading Thine own sacrifice—Who didst, ere leaving Thine Apostles, pray the Father for the Comforter to come to them, and on the Day of Pentecost didst send upon Thy Church the Holy Ghost to dwell in it for ever: Grant to us from day to day renewal of that gracious Gift. Send forth that guiding Spirit to confirm our wavering faith, to lead us in the paths of righteousness, that we may walk in all Thy ways, obeying Thy commandments, ever mindful of Thy glorious presence, searching all the deeds of men. Drive from our hearts that spirit of the world which seeth not nor knoweth God, and purify them by Thy grace that we may see the Father. Thou art gone a little while, and yet Thou livest; so illumine these dim hearts of ours that we may still behold Thee, and, beholding, ever live the life of faith hidden with Thee in God. Endow us with the Spirit of Thy Love, and make it work within us true obedience to Thy every word, that we may know the mysteries of God in Unity and Trinity, of Thee, the Word Incarnate. of the Holy Spirit, One with Thee and God the Father. Fill our hearts and understandings with a perfect love of Thee, that we may keep Thy Word. Reveal to us those secrets of Thy Love, which eye hath never seen, nor ear hath heard, nor mind of man conceived, reserved in Heaven for those who love and keep Thy words. The Prince of this world cometh; powers of darkness work in sons of disobedience, but Thou hast conquered sin and Satan, and in Thee we claim the victory. Uphold us by Thy Spirit, that we may rejoice to enter to the glories of Thy Throne. Amen.

TRINITY SUNDAY.

S. JOHN III. 1-16 (Gos.)

The Triune Godhead.

O GOD, the Father ineffable, without beginning, without end, Maker of all things, Who didst in Thine Eternal Counsels will that all men should be saved: O God the Son, Redeemer of mankind, Who didst in love to man put off the glories of Thy heavenly throne, and take our nature on Thee, perfect God, and perfect man, Shepherd and Lamb; and dying in the flesh dost live eternally: O God the Holy Ghost, Who sanctifiest all the elect people of God, proceeding from the Father and the Son, regenerating Spirit, Life, and Comforter: O Blessed, undivided Trinity, Three Persons in One God, confirm, establish, strengthen, settle us in such true faith of Thine Eternal Godhead, One in substance, One in Majesty, and One in power, that we may never be ashamed to acknowledge Thee, but know Thee as the Source of Everlasting Life. Grant us to know Thee as our loving Father, that we may commit to Thee the keeping of our souls in well-doing; to know Thee as the well-beloved Son, in Whom the Father is well-pleased, that we may as very members of Thy Body partake of Thine inheritance; to know Thee as the Spirit, by Whose gracious influence and power we call ourselves the sons of God. We thank Thee Who by water and the Spirit hast adopted us as heirs of Heaven. Reveal to us Thy perfect Image in that "sea of glass like unto crystal," that gazing on Thine infinite perfections we may be made like to Thee in holiness and love. Abide with us for ever, Lover of our souls. Direct us to all truth. Enrich us with all holy gifts. Refresh us with all comforts. Lead us in the way of life, that, living by Thy Spirit, we may walk in Thee, and so by Thee be sealed unto the day of our redemption, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

1 S. JOHN IV. 7-21.
Conformity to Christ.

ALMIGHTY GOD, Who hast so loved the world that, to redeem us from the doom and misery of sin, Thou gavest Thine own well-beloved Son, that He, made in our nature, born of a woman, might perform to Thee the obedience owed by all mankind, and pay the price in which we were indebted : We beseech Thee, fill us with that love which Thou dost so commend to us, that, after Thy commandment, we may also love one another, even as Thou hast loved us. No man, we know, can look upon Thy face and live, but if we love, Thou dwellest in us, and Thy love is perfected in us. We thank Thee for the Spirit Thou hast given, whereby we know we dwell in Thee, and Thou in us, and we have seen and testify that Jesus is the Son of God. We praise and magnify Thy glorious Name, Who in Thy loving care and providence hast brought us by the highway of the Church, even from the cradle in the manger to the painful Cross ; through all the dear and sacred memories of that most loving life of Jesus to behold in Him Thy very Image, after which, we pray Thee, fashion us. We cannot see Thee, teach us to behold Thy Son, our great Example, that in knowing we may love Him, and in Him all our brethren, whom we can see. Shew us what Thou wouldest have us do, and strengthen us by Thy Good Spirit for those works of love Thou dost design for us. Thus, O Father, as the Saviour pleased to take our nature, so may we conform ourselves to His most perfect Image, growing in the knowledge and the love of Thee. So bring us, children of Thy love in Him, to be partakers of the glorious inheritance of Thy beloved Son, the first begotten of all creation, even our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

1 S. JOHN III. 13-24. (Ep.)
Love and Sacrifice.

O ETERNAL GOD, most loving Father of all mankind, we give Thee continual thanks for all Thy benefits bestowed upon us Thine unworthy servants: Grant, most gracious Father, that we may ever strive to use Thy gifts and mercies for Thy glory and the good of others, never to their harm, or the dishonour of Thy Holy Name. Keep before our eyes the perfect pattern of the self-denying love of Thy dear Son, our Saviour Christ, Who gave Himself to die for our sakes. Teach us to practice what He preached; to follow our great Captain patiently and bravely, under that law of Sacrifice and love He published from His bitter Cross. No need for us to seek occasions of heroic sacrifice, for love will burn as bright in little things as great, and nothing is beyond its notice; shew us, then, how even in humble gifts and lowly services to others we may manifest that Thy love dwelleth in us. Guard us lest, while we profess to minister true Christian consolations, we be found to deal in empty words alone. Assure our hearts before Thee; certify our faith by lives and works of active love. Direct us how to comfort the distressed, to help the sorrowful, to rescue souls from sin and darkness. Thou, Who knowest all things, drive away all doubts and scruples that would keep us from Thy love, that we may cast ourselves in utter confidence on Thee, and do with all our might whatever Thou givest us to do. Unworthy though we be, we pray Thee look upon us, members of Thy Christ, Thy children in the well-beloved Son. Guide us by Thy Spirit. Take away all that would hinder His abiding in our hearts, that we may walk in love, as Thou hast loved us, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

1 S. PETER V. 5-11 (Ep.)
Humble Trust in God.

O LORD of all power and might, God of all spirits and of all flesh, that dwellest in the highest Heavens, and yet humblest Thyself to behold the lowly upon earth; Who resistest the proud, and givest grace unto the humble: Grant us the grace of true humility, that we may readily submit our Will to Thine, and our whole life to Thy adorable providence. For all the evil that is in us is our own, and all the good from Thee, Who lovest us and willest our salvation. Make us to serve Thee with a quiet mind, relying always on Thy tender love and care; in soberness and watchfulness opposing all the wiles of him who seeks to compass our destruction. Christ our Head has overcome the enemy; O grant us grace that in His power we may triumph also. Hear the supplications which arise from all the brotherhood of Christ throughout the world. Receive the tears and cries of suffering souls; and comfort, help, and strengthen us in all our tribulations. Shew to us Thy gracious love and care, which maketh all things, even trials and afflictions, serve to our salvation. Inspire us with that "hearty desire to pray," to which alone Thy mighty aid is sent. Increase in us that gracious gift of faithful prayer by which alone we may approach Thy footstool, through our Advocate and Mediator Jesus Christ, and draw from thence the help and strength of Thy Almighty Arm. Keep us, Thy children, taken up into Thy family, adopted in Thy well-beloved Son, from all the dangers of the world, the devil, and the flesh. Support and comfort us in all our trials. Gird us, the soldiers of the Cross, with all the armour of light, that in the warfare of this life we may prevail, and win at last the crown of life, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

S. LUKE VI. 36-42.

The Rest that remaineth.

O MERCIFUL and gracious God, keep ever in our minds the hope of that eternal Rest, which Thou hast promised to the faithful servants of Thy Christ, that we may pass through all the troubles of this changing world with sure and certain hope of resurrection to eternal life through Jesus Christ. Conform us to the fashion of Thy likeness here, that we may enter with the mark and sign of Thy Beloved to the Heavenly Home prepared for Thy redeemed in Him. Remind us of Thy Love in Christ, of His atoning Death, of all the pleading of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may depend upon Thy mercy wholly for acceptance. Teach us, by the thought of all Thy goodness in past days, how great a debt we owe to Thee, that we may look with tenderness and mercy on our brother-debtors. Preserve us from all reckless blame of others, for we all need pardon. All we have is Thine, lent to us only for employment in Thy service, guard us then from hoarding it as if our own, or wasting Thy good gifts in carelessness or self-indulgence; but, as Thou hast given bountifully, so enable us ungrudgingly and with good-will to minister unto the souls and bodies of our brethren for their lasting welfare. O True Light, do Thou shine in upon our souls, and out upon our path of life, that we may shew to others the true way that leadeth to eternal life. Direct our prayers, our talk, our whole behaviour, so that we may help, not hinder, others on their Heavenward journey. Cast out first our own besetting sin, that we may clearly see the narrow way, by which to bring the souls Thou lovest to the vision of their God. Prepare us thus to be in this world as our Master, and hereafter to be with Him in His glory, for His sake. Amen.

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

1 S. PETER III. 8-15. (Ep.)
The Peaceable Service of God.

O GOD OF PEACE, Who hast embarked us in Thy Church, that so amidst the waves and troubles of the world, in calm and stillness we may hear the blessed words of peace, the Gospel of Thy Son, our Blessed Lord: So rule and govern all the elements of this world, that in "godly quietness" we may hear the words of Jesus, and devote ourselves, our souls and bodies, to Thy service. Keep us by Thy Holy Spirit safe amidst the strife of tongues, the babel that surrounds us. Lend Thine Ear of mercy to our trembling supplications; give us hearts to pray, and faith to persevere. As children of one family, and brethren in Thy household, join us altogether in the bonds of tender love; that, as we look for Thy compassion, we may shew the same to all men, speaking well, and doing well, and praying well for all. Plant in our hearts the love of holiness, the hope of Heaven, that, looking forward to Thy reign of peace, we may so order here our words, our deeds, our prayers, that we may daily grow more fit to live with Thee and all Thy saints. Refrain our tongues from evil, and our lips that they may speak no guile. So train us in the ways of righteousness, that we may ever feel Thine eyes upon us, and behold Thy face with joy. Secure in thy beneficent providence, untroubled by the cares of many things, unshaken by the doubts and questions that distract the world, do Thou defend us from all foes, while we are busy in our Father's business, working with a single heart and stedfast faith Thy Will. Grant us that peace which passeth understanding, that anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, earnest, living faith, to bind us safely to the eternal shore, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

ROM. VI. 3-11. (Ep.)
The Risen Life.

ALMIGHTY GOD, Who didst at our Baptism by Thy Holy Spirit plant within us the seed of that love which can alone prepare us for Heavenly joys: Renew in us Thy grace, that in the contemplation of the Cross and death of Christ our heart and all our best affections may be fixed. Buried with Him by Baptism into death, raise us to live with Him that life which is in Thee, in pure affections now, and fulness of eternal joy hereafter. Revive within our hearts the germ of deathless love, and bid it grow and flourish till it bring forth fruits, the fruits of love to Thee and all men. In the winter time of this corrupt and evil world do Thou prepare within us faith, and love, and purity, to witness for us that we are Thy children, members of Thy Church, and worthy by His merits of a place at Thy right hand. To Thee be glory for that triumph over sin and death, whereby the Saviour set us free, that we no more should groan beneath the cruel servitude of sin, but rise with Him to newness of eternal life. Deliver us, we pray Thee, from all evil inclinations, lusts, and appetites, that savour of the things belonging to that sinful nature which we have renounced. Enlighten us with heavenly wisdom; purify onr hearts; amend our habits; sanctify our lives; restrain our tongues from foolish talking, and all angry, envious words. Let truth and mercy, kindness, peace, and love, proceed out of our mouths. Direct and strengthen us in all our ways to follow Jesus in the narrow path of Thy commandments, putting off the old man with his deeds, and putting on the new man, after Him created in all righteousness and truth, united to His Love, partakers of Thy glory, for His blessed sake. Amen.

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

ROMANS VI. 19-23 (Ep.)

The Freedom of God's Service.

O GOD, Whose Service is perfect freedom, and the end thereof eternal life: Grant us the grace of Thy most Holy Spirit, that we may choose that better part the reward of which is in Thine hand, despising all the honours and the comforts of this world, which are but bonds of slavery, and mockeries of freedom, as compared with those observances of grace and love, and deeds of righteousness, which Thou rewardest. Keep us from the dread of losing joy or comfort in this present life, if we should choose obedience to Thy will. Reveal to us the nature of those false allurements and deceitful promises of mammon which destroy so many souls, that we be not beguiled by seeming pleasures of the flesh, or honours of the world, to cast away our hopes of life eternal through the merits of our Saviour Christ. Prevent us with Thy grace, that we may never long for those delights of sin, whose fruit is shame, whose wages death; but mortify instead these carnal lusts of ours. and exercise our souls in acts of penitence and self-denial here, that so we may prepare for those eternal joys which are at Thy right hand for those who wait in faith and patience for Thy promise. Look upon Thy servants, Thine because redeemed from bondage by the precious Blood of Christ, and grant us grace to wait on Thee with diligence, with reverence to serve Thee, heartily to do Thy bidding. Fill us with all joy and hope, unprofitable though we be, and after all unworthy of the least of all Thy mercies; still for His dear sake, Who has done all for us, we look for the reward. O merciful and loving Master, for a while we suffer here, a little while, but we rejoice in hope of soon possessing Thy great gift, Eternal Life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

S. MATT. VII. 15-21 (Gos.)
The Tree known by its Fruits.

O ALMIGHTY GOD, Who in Thy Holy Word hast taught us to beware of those who go about with perverse words deceiving the elect and spoiling souls through vain philosophies and vain conceits of worldly wisdom: Keep us stedfast in that Faith delivered once for all unto Thy Church, lest we be carried away with divers winds of doctrines, and forsake the One and only Way that leadeth unto Life. Let no persuasive words prevail to shake our hold upon the doctrines of Thy Holy Church, nor any specious arguments or questions lead us to forsake the Fold where we were first made lambs of Christ, and Thine adopted children. Give to us discerning minds to mark those makers of divisions and offences in Thy Church, and all opposers of the Doctrine we have learned. Endow Thy chosen ministers with purity of faith and works, that they may lead us in a godly, righteous, sober life, a life of holy fruits agreeing to the goodness and the greatness of our calling. We praise and magnify Thy holy Name, Who in Thy love hast planted us within the garden of Thy Church; so train and nourish us therein, that we, as goodly trees, may yield abundant fruits of holiness and love unto perfection. Grant to us that wisdom from above which first is pure, then peaceable, and gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good works, without hypocrisy or doubtfulness. Preserve us from the fearful sentence of a useless self-indulgent life, and in Thy providence so guide us by the ministries, and sacraments, and ordinances of Thy Church, that all the world may know, when they behold our patience, charity, and holiness, that we are very members of Thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

1 Cor. x. 1-13 (Ep.)
For Guidance in our Pilgrimage.

O Lord, incline our hearts to learn the lesson of Thy dealings with Thy ancient Church and people; let Thy promises and threatenings to them of old set forth to us the awful doom which waits upon neglect of spiritual calls and guidance. Like them we wander through the wilderness of this world, overshadowed by Thy Presence, by the loving care and guidance of the Comforter; continue to us ever thus Thy Holy Spirit, Who alone can make us think and do such things as Thou wouldst have us do. Like them we have passed through the Red Sea of the Blood of Christ, whereby our spiritual enemies are slain, and been made members of His Body, as our Lawgiver and Leader; keep us true and stedfast in our following and service of the same. Like them we feed on angels' food, the Bread from Heaven; make it to us the constant banquet of our souls, refreshing, strengthening unto eternal life. Like them we drink of that once-smitten Rock, that side of Christ once pierced, whence flow the living waters of the City of God; in that Rock make us trust, for shelter and defence in all our weary pilgrimage. Like dangers as like mercies wait upon Thy people now; grant that we lust not after evil things, nor fall beneath temptation, thinking scorn of promised glories, loathing gifts from Thee. Watch over us, Thou faithful God, and turn these trials to our good. Remind us by these records of Thy mercies, that by Thy redeeming grace we yet may conquer. Pardon our profane, ungrateful hearts, and teach us how to use Thy judgments to our souls' eternal good. So bring us to that Heavenly Canaan Thou hast promised through our Saviour and Deliverer, Jesus Christ. Amen.

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

1 Cor. xii. 1-11. (Ep.)
Spiritual Gifts.

Glory be to Thee, O God, Who out of heathen darkness hast vouchsafed to call us to Thy marvellous light, and hast illumined us with wondrous powers of Thy Holy Spirit, grant that we may never set up idols in our hearts again, or, blinded by our evil lusts and covetous desires, forget the freedom into which our Saviour Christ has brought us. Holy, Blessed Trinity, Who workest all in all to compass man's salvation, make us know and love Thy Spirit as the Life of the redeemed, Jesus Christ our only Master, Mighty God the Source of all our blessedness. Pour down into our hearts Thy gracious gifts, and lead us by the sweet constrainment of the Holy Ghost to feel and know the love of Christ, which passeth human knowledge. Dispense to us Thy gracious gifts according to the good of each, for perfecting our holiness, and edifying of Thy Church. So guide us in this state of trial and probation that Thy gifts may never puff us up with self-conceit, or selfishness, nor cause in others strife or envy. Keep us from all misuse of Thy good gifts of Spirit, mind, or body, nature, or estate, lest we forget that we are members of One Body, working by one Spirit, though in divers ways, towards one end, Thy glory. Poverty or riches Thou dost give to each "to profit withal," enable us to use them for the spiritual blessing of ourselves and others. Teach us to look upon Thy gifts not as our own, but talents to be used for Thee and in Thine honour, lent to us for careful usage as Thy stewards, not for selfish exaltation. Make us view distinctions in Thy Church as divers callings of the self-same Spirit, by the which we are in love to serve our God and one another; divers powers granted to each member for the benefit of all. So may Thy Church be glorified, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

1 Cor. xv. 1-11 (Ep.)

The Effect of a True Faith. Self-humiliation.

Almighty God, and most merciful Father, Who dost in shewing mercy mostly manifest Thy power: Work in us, we pray Thee, such a constant sense of our unworthiness by reason of our many sins, that we may shew ourselves true objects of Thy pity and forbearance, for the sake of Him Who died. Make Thy Almighty power to be seen in us, by our advances in the ways of holiness amidst the struggles and temptations of this present life, and our salvation through Thy grace hereafter. We thank Thee for that blessed Gospel which we have received, that Faith in which we were baptized. We praise Thee Who didst send Thy preachers into this dark world, and causedst us to live within the blessed sound of their glad tidings; bring that message home to every heart, and stablish us in that true Faith we have received. Confirm and strengthen us by Thy good Spirit. Help us in our frailty, that we may continue surely Thine, and persevere, when all around looks dark, still holding fast for life and strength, unto the Cross of Christ, the Rock of our Salvation. We confess we are indeed unworthy to enjoy these blessings of Thy Gospel, to partake the flesh and Blood of Jesus at His Altar, to rely on all His glorious promises of Heaven. After all that we have done, to be allowed such promises of peace, such glorious hopes, such certainty of bliss within Thy Love! For our first call into Thy Church; for all good thoughts and plans of Work for Christ; for all we are, and do, and hope for, we still thank Thy grace and love in Him. Renew our souls, and change our weakness into strength. Reveal to us our nothingness and Thy great glory, through our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

2 Cor. iii. 4-11 (Ep.)
Our Sufficiency of God.

Almighty God, we pray Thee, fix within our hearts such perfect Faith and Hope and Love through Christ to Thee, that we may rest in confidence and full assurance on Thy grace. Remove far from us all uneasy vanity and barren coldness, rising from the proneness of our mortal nature to all evil. Suffer not our minds to trust in any self-sufficiency, or inward power to think as of ourselves that which is good, unaided by Thine own preventing grace, or unassisted by the working of Thy Spirit. Thou alone canst work in us to do of Thy good pleasure. Be pleased, in Thy might and Love, to use Thy servants as Thy instruments; and grant us ever fresh supplies from out of Thy abundance. Shew to us the very inmost truth of Thy most Holy Word. Inspire us with the very spirit of life, renewing us and forming us according to the pattern of Thy blessed Son. The face of Moses shone with transient glory when Thou spakest with him on the Mount; reveal to us, we pray Thee, that true light in Christ, which will transfigure us with sweet and lasting radiance, and shine for ever through the mists of time and death. As Thou hast shewn us by the Law how weak and frail is man. so prove us by Thy Gospel strong in Christ. Raise up the weak and trembling hearts, and by the power of Thy Word, the graces of Thy Holy Spirit, the magic influence of Thy wonder-working Cross, conform us to the likeness of Thy blessed Son, our Saviour. Fill us with that spirit of love and sacrifice which flows throughout both Law and Gospel, that we may bring unto Thee, in union with the offering of Christ, the sacrifice of body, soul, and spirit, through the same our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

GAL. III. 16-22 (Ep.)
Love, the Fulfilling of the Law.

O GOD OF LOVE, Who in Thy blessed Word dost open more and more the greatness of Thy loving-kindness, and the depth of Thine exceeding Love: Constrain us by Thy Spirit to devote our hearts and souls in serving Thee with that same love wherewith Thou lovest us. As Thou hast made us in our Baptism with Thy Christ the seed of Abraham, and members of that Body to which Thou hast promised the inheritance of Heaven, we beseech Thee keep us true and faithful, that with all the Saints we may enjoy that heritage of bliss. Implant within us by Thy Spirit faith and perseverance, that we may seek Christ, and find Him, and grow up in fashion like to Him, conformed to His example, and receiving of His fulness. Teach us more and more the lesson of Thy Love, that, loving Thee, Thy laws may be our great delight, and our obedience perfected in Love. Thou hast no need of us, and yet Thou didst vouchsafe to join us with Thyself, uniting us to Thee in Christ; O let us not by disobedience fall away, nor render unto Thee the servitude of fear, constrained by terrors of Thy law, but rather offer cheerfully and readily the tribute of a grateful heart. We know that all we can do never may deserve Thy mercy, save as very members of Thy Son, in Whom Thou art well-pleased; look upon us then in Him, Whose Body broken, and Whose Blood outpoured, we plead before Thee. and accept us for His sake. In Him come to us, and enfold us in that awful Presence; so shall we partake Thy goodness, Thy divine compassion, Thine unspeakable Love. Teach us to shew to others mercy, as Thou shewest us; to do to all men even as to us Thou hast done, dealing tenderly, forbearingly, and lovingly with all, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

GAL. V. 16-24 (Ep.)
The Fruits of the Spirit.

O GOD, and merciful Father, Who hast included us in a holy covenant of grace and mercy in Christ Jesus our Lord: Enable us to faithfully observe that covenant, and grant us lively Faith in all Thy gracious promises, and patient Hope that we may wait for them, in full persuasion that we shall enjoy them through Thy mercy. Add unto our Faith true charity, the love of Thy commands, entire devotion to Thy service. Lead us by Thy Spirit in the narrow way Thou hast marked out for us. Assist and strengthen us in this our mighty warfare between good and evil, sin and holiness. Disperse all foolish thoughts, and vile desires, and base imaginations which arise within our minds, and cherish every holy thought and longing after good. Reveal Thyself in all Thy loveliness that we may long for Thee, and seek Thee ever by a godly, upright life, enlivened by Thy Holy Word and strengthened by the Bread of Life to do Thy will. Remove from us all deadly sins of thought, or word, or deed, which close the door of Heaven against us. Let us not repose our confidence in any mere profession, while Thy pure all-seeing eye beholds within us unrepented sin, that must unfit us for Thy presence, and that holy place, where nothing that defileth enters. Nourish in us all those sweet and Heavenly dispositions by which men and angels must acknowledge us as Thine No human skill can raise those holy fruits upon the barren soil of human hearts; we pray Thee, therefore, change these hearts of ours; renew them by Thy grace; enrich them by Thy Spirit; fill them with Thy Love, that we may bring forth fruits of love abundantly, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

GAL. V. 11-18 (Ep.)
Marks of the Cross.

ALMIGHTY GOD, as members of Thy Church, the Body of Thy Son, our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we thank Thee for the glorious promises and covenant of grace, whereby we are insured an entrance into Thy divine inheritance. Vouchsafe to us and all who name the name of Christ that we may rightly value and improve this gracious privilege, and live as earnest faithful members of that Church by means of which Thou dost convey to us the blessings of Thy Love. We praise Thy mercy for that liberty wherewith Thy Christ has made us free; a liberty from ceremonial bondage. Give us, Lord, the courage to declare ourselves on Thy side. Take away all fear of men or judgment of the world that would deter us from a bold profession of Thy service. Help us to preserve that holy sign and mark of our enlistment which was given at our Baptism, testifying to all men that we should henceforth never be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ, and to fight manfully beneath His banner against the world, the flesh, and the devil. Make the Cross of Christ to us the measure of the world, that we may estimate all things according to that standard. Fix our hearts in constant contemplation on Christ crucified, that we may learn with Him to do Thy will, and to renounce our own; in utter love to sacrifice ourselves for others; to be humble, to give up, to look beyond this world, to bear in patience whatsoever Thou mayest send in order to prepare us for admission to Thy Heavenly Courts. Build up in us Thy new creation. Raise us out of sin and darkness, pure and holy temples of Thy Spirit, flashing back the brightness of Thy glory, shining more and more unto the perfect day, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

EPHES. III. 13-21 (Ep)
Fellowship with Saints.

O GOD THE FATHER, Who hast called from the world Thy Church, to be one Family, adopted children of Thy Love in Jesus Christ Thy well-beloved Son: Unite us in the bonds of Faith, and Peace, and Love, that when we see Thy Saints in trouble, broken down by sorrow, suffering pain of body or distress of mind, despised by the world, and evil spoken of by those who should know better, we faint not at these tribulations, nor yet deem Thou hast forsaken Thine elect, but glory rather in that Thou dost find us worthy to partake the sufferings of Christ. Especially we pray that Thou wouldst send upon Thy servants who are called to any office or administration in Thy Church the spirit and the power so to do Thy will, and minister Thy blessings, that Thy children may grow up in purity and unity of faith, and holiness of life, as members of one Body, and true brethren of Thy Son. All creatures Thou hast made in Heaven and earth are fed by Thee, obey Thy laws, reflect Thy glory; grant that we whom Thou hast likewise made, nay more, adopted as Thy children, may be found obedient to Thy will, and fail not to attain the blessedness of Thy redemption through our Saviour Christ. Unfold to us the breadth of Thy redemption, for Thou willest not that one soul should be lost; its length, which knows no end; its depth, hid in the counsels of Thy Love; its height, so far above the malice of the devil, or the vain conceits of man. So fill us with Thy love that worldly things may lose their hold upon our hearts, and fit us by Thy grace for those blest regions where, with all Thy Church, with angels and archangels we may glorify Thy Name through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

EPHES. IV. 1-6 (Ep.)

The Spirit of Unity in the Church.

O GOD THE HOLY GHOST, from Whom the Church derives all spiritual life and energy; Who art unto this Body what the Soul is to the human being: Quicken all the members of Thy Church, that they may bear in mind their high and holy calling, and take constant heed to walk according to it. Nourish in us all Thy gifts of grace, that we may grow in knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Unite us in Thyself, in Whom we were baptised into one Body, with one common hope, one common calling. Thou who givest life to all the ordinances of the Church, vouchsafe to live and act in each of us, its members. Guide and control each movement, making all to act in unison and harmony. So bind us up together that in one mind we may will and do, each in our several stations, Thy good will and pleasure. Make us like-minded unto Christ, that with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, we may forbear one another in love. So make us meek, not ready to take umbrage at affronts; not heaping up or magnifying wrongs; but bearing patiently and hopefully with others' faults, remembering most our own. We thank Thee for the blessedness of human love and home affections; but far more than these teach us to prize that sympathy, that love and high communion which as fellow-heirs of Heaven we may enjoy. All striving for one goal, together banded in one holy warfare, underneath one banner, headed by One Captain, keep us ever in the ranks, that, hand in hand, and heart with heart advancing, we may come at last to see Thy glory, with the Son and Father, One God evermore. Amen.

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

S. MATT. XXII. 34-46 (GOS.)
Love, the Fulfilling of the Law.

O GOD, Who hast in Thy great mercy, knowing how we are surrounded with persistent enemies of our salvation, given to us the fulness of Thy grace: Enable us to use Thy help to fight against the dangers that beset our Christian course. Reveal to us the foes that lurk around, enticing us to leave Christ's banner. Keep us from the snares of worldly ease and pleasure, covetousness and love of riches, pride of place, ambition to be great amongst our fellow-men. Guard us against temptations of the flesh, bad thoughts and evil passions, lusts and inclinations, which would draw us from the narrow way to tread the broad and easy road which leadeth to destruction. Kill all pride within us; pride, which cast the prince of devils out of Heaven; and selfishness, the source of every sin. Implant instead within our hearts those virtues which become Thy children—Faith, and true obedience to Thy commandments. Make us love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, for Thou art infinitely good, and hast displayed to us Thy goodness. Teach us how to love Thee, as the children of a loving Father; for Thou hast redeemed us by Thy dear Son, hast poured Thy benefits upon us by Thy Holy Spirit, dealing with us as with friends, and hast prepared for us a home in Heaven. As it is our bounden duty, render it our highest pleasure, to love Thee, our Comfort here, our everlasting Joy hereafter. So shall we be filled with Thy Spirit, loving others even as Thou hast loved us, and seeking but their good, fulfilling thus Thy Law. Write on our hearts this Gospel of good-will, that we may follow Thee in heart and mind, and so partake of Thy forgiving mercy, through our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

EPHES. IV. 17-32 (Ep.)

The Life of the Regenerate.

O ETERNAL GOD, Great Father of all spirits, Lover of all souls, Who didst send down upon Thy Church Thy Holy Spirit, promising that He should dwell in it for ever: Lead us by that Spirit to all faith; defend us from all sin; enrich us with His gifts, refresh us with His comforts; rule within our hearts; conduct us by His truths, and lead us in the way of Life. So witness to our spirits that we are Thy children. Drive away all darkness, ignorance, and hardness, in which so many live who know not Thee. Shine into them, that they may see themselves, and know Thy mercy and the way of Life, and turn and walk therein while yet they may. O keep us, Christians as we be, redeemed, and fed, and cherished in Thy love, from falling into wilful sins and lusts, which must estrange us from Thy love. But teach us ever by our great Example, placed before our eyes by Scriptures, Sacraments, and holy seasons; printed in our hearts by constant gifts of grace, to live according to our new creation in true holiness and righteousness. As we are members of One Body, make us speak the truth each with his neighbour, that the "Father of lies" may have no part in us. Let not our prayers be spoilt, our good works hindered, by the force of hatred or revenge, or bitter sense of injuries received, but grant us patience and forbearance like to Thine. Employ our hands in works of holiness and love, our tongues in pure and godly conversation, ministering grace unto the hearers. Consecrate our souls and bodies to Thy service, and renew Thy grace within us, lest we break the seal of our redemption. Fill us with that love, and mercy, and forgiveness, Thou hast shewn to us in Jesus Christ our Saviour, for His sake. Amen.

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

EPHES. V. 15-21 (Ep.)
Joy in the Spirit.

O HEAVENLY FATHER, Who hast taught us in Thy holy Word how we may live in quietness and godliness on earth, directed by Thy Holy Spirit: Teach us also how we may make ready for the Second Advent of our Lord, that when He comes we may be found in constant practice of good works, befitting those who wait for His appearing. Help us to redeem the time by watching for all opportunities for doing good, by constancy in fervent prayer, by seeking first Thy Will in all we do. Enlighten us with Heavenly wisdom and true understanding of Thy Will, and give us grace with all our strength to do it. Shew us wherein true happiness consists, lest we pursue the false and fleeting mirth of this world, which must end in heaviness and sorrow, rather than the happiness this world can never give, the joy and peace Thy Holy Spirit brings to those who cling to Thee. Upheld with hope of everlasting bliss in Heaven with Thee, we sing Thy praise with heart and mouth, and pray from Thee a share in those glad anthems which the angels sing before Thy throne. Attune our souls to notes of holy joy, that pleasures of this earth no more may tempt us to forget that we are Thine own children, and inheritors of Heaven with Christ. Preserve within our hearts a constant sense of thankfulness for Thy great mercies, so shall no distresses or adversities prevail to make us question Thy good providence, or yet distrust Thy Love. Inspire us with that holy trust and confidence in Thy Almighty power and mercy, that with joy and gladness we may wait, submitting to Thy guidance, cheerfully accomplishing those things that Thou wouldst have us do, until Thy glory be revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

EPHES. VI. 10-19 (Ep.)
The Armour of Saints.

ALMIGHTY GOD, Who knowest whereof we are made, how weak, how very prone to sin : We pray Thee, Who hast cleansed us in the Blood of Christ, to grant us day by day the fulness of Thy grace, and strength to do Thy Will. Without Thy Spirit our own strength is nought, and powerless to resist the vast and spiritual forces ranged against us. Open Thou our eyes that we may see the dangers that surround us. Our foes are mighty, yet Thou art more mighty. Arm us for the conflict with the armour wherein Christ our Captain overcame. Our enemies assail the life of grace within our souls, with craft and guile, and subtle temptings of the flesh, conspiring to destroy this temple of Thy Spirit ; grant us then renewed supplies of grace, that they may never tear us from Thy favour or the hope of Heaven. We know not how soon we may fall, what sudden trial may prevail against us ; let us never then be lulled to carelessness or false security, but stand upon our guard. Gird up our loins with Truth. Protect us with the righteousness of Christ, the witness of a conscience pure and clean. Employ us in all ministries of good ; in efforts to bring souls to Thee ; in helping all good works with alms and prayers ; that, running thus in ways of Thy commandments, we may never stumble. Teach us how to use Thy shield of Faith with skill and readiness ; and cover us with confidence in Christ's work wrought for us, and joyful hope of His salvation. So instruct us in Thy Word, that with it we may overthrow all obstacles, and pierce all difficulties. Fill us with the spirit of prayer, that, communing with Thee, no evil influence may come between, to rob us of the prize of our high calling in Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

PHIL. I. 3-11 (Ep.)
The Love of Christians.

O GOD, Who in our Baptism hast included all the members of Thy Church as fellow-servants in the same great household: Teach us by Thy Spirit how to live in practices of mutual prayer and love and holiness, that when our Lord shall come we may be found so doing. Even now the Name of Christ is evil spoken of, and to confess Him still must cost us something. But Thy mercy makes it easier to serve Thee than of old, when persecutions and imprisonments and death awaited those who dared to bear Thy Cross. Let us rejoice as faithful servants to obey Thy Will, and diligently do Thy business. Though the world will ever scorn Thy saints, and all that would live godly lives must suffer persecution, take away from us all fear; and strengthen us with courage from above to bear the Name of Christ. Confirm to us Thy gifts of grace and peace and love, that, joined together in one holy bond of charity, we may with liberal hearts work out the precepts of Thy Gospel, and endeavour to extend its influence to all, by alms, and prayers, and hearty sympathy, partaking in the work of Thy true servants everywhere, and so find fellowship with all Thy saints. We know that any good work done by us is owing to Thy grace, and thank Thee for each thought and aim of good, beseeching Thee to further still Thy grace within our souls. So fill our hearts with that pure fire of love and true devotion which the heart of Jesus bore, that we may offer Thee the sacrifice of all our best affections, and with all Thy Church may bring forth fruits of righteousness, and labour for Thy glory and our brethren's good, through Jesus Christ our *Lord. Amen.*

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

PHIL. III. 17-21 (Ep.)

Our Heavenly Citizenship.

MOST HOLY AND ETERNAL GOD, great King of Heaven and earth, and Ruler of Thy Church: We thank Thee for that perfect Pattern Thou hast given us in our Saviour Christ, and for the lives of Thine Apostles, living lessons to the flock, though subject to like passions with ourselves, yet shining midst the darkness of the world, and walking by the higher rule of Heaven. We pray Thee, suffer not Thy servants to forget that they are Thine, the subjects of the Cross, and citizens of Heaven, lest by our sins we "Crucify the Son of God afresh," and "put Him to an open shame." But train us rather in those holy duties they so well fulfilled; to pray, believe, endure, and hope, as they did, minding not things earthly, persecutions, trials, sorrows, pride of life, or pleasures of the body, for the carnal mind is enmity with Thee. Be this our glory rather, here to suffer for the sake of Christ, and do Thy Will, that, for His sake, we may hereafter be partakers of Thy Kingdom. Set our hearts, our treasure, our employments in the things above, as those who look for joys this world can never give; as strangers, pilgrims, exiles from our home, which is in Heaven. So mould our thoughts, our tastes, that we may most delight to read of that, our country, hear of its good news, learn of its triumphs, fight its battles, meditate its glories. By Thy Spirit so renew Thy grace within our hearts, so dwell within these bodies, so direct our steps along the narrow way, that when at last we enter the dark valley, even there the Cross may be our rod and staff, and at the end this body may be changed and glorified, and raised to sit in heavenly places with the Lord, for His dear sake. *Amen.*

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

COL. I. 3-12 (Ep.)

Mutual Intercessions.

O GOD, the Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we thank Thee for the benefits Thou hast bestowed upon Thy Church; pour out upon us all the spirit of fervent supplication, joining all Thy faithful people in the bonds of constant love and prayer, that we may always bear in mind the welfare of our brethren; Thy great goodness, and their needs. We pray Thee, by the love Thou bearest to Thy well-beloved Son, and all who name His Name, to fill us with Thy Spirit, and so guide Thy Church in thoughts and deeds of perfect love, that we may grow in grace, and press along the way that leadeth to Eternal Life. We know, alas! how weak and frail we are. Defend us by Thy goodness, strengthen more and more our faith, and open out our hearts to all who with ourselves are striving for perfection. Let not selfish interest and promise of reward, but love to Thee and all men, move us in the ways of holiness, that we may find in serving Thee, the True, and Merciful, and Holy, our best happiness below, and afterwards, the bliss of everlasting Life. Turn towards us the hearts of all, that they may pray for us. Enlarge the souls of Thine elect throughout the world, and knit us in one holy bond of peace and true affection, that Thy Kingdom may increase, and grace abound, and fruits of goodness grow an hundredfold. Be this our glory, not that we are rich, or learned, or successful, but that Thou hast quickened all our hearts with love; that we partake the true Communion of saints, for with the saints in Heaven, and saints on earth, one church, we love, and serve, and praise Thee by one Spirit, our one God and Father, through the *One and only* Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

JER. XXIII. 5-8 (Ep.)
Gleanings after Harvest.

O LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS, Great Shepherd of the sheep, Who from the desolations of the world wilt gather into one Thy scattered flock, from every nation upon earth, and Who wilt bring again those multitudes who wait in Paradise the consummation of Thy Church, that they with us may be made perfect: So prepare the hearts of all who love Thy Name, that they may greet Thy coming with Hosannas, and rejoice to welcome Thee, the Righteous Branch, the King Whose reign shall prosper in the earth. Stir up the failing faith, the lagging zeal of all Thy servants, that Thy gospel message may be known in all the corners of the land; and bid Thy light to shine amid the darkness, searching out the hidden depths of ignorance and unbelief. Direct and guide the counsels of Thy Church, that no contentions may arise, no selfish interests prevail to hinder or discourage her great work. In unity of spirit, and in singleness of heart, unite us in one Body for the one great end, the world's salvation. Gather up the fragments that are scattered far and wide, and draw us all together in one Faith, one Love; that with Thee for our Head we may with one mind do Thy work, and so advance Thy Kingdom. Meanwhile reign in every single heart, and shew us wherein we have wasted time and talents. Help us, ere it be too late, to seek from Thee renewal of Thy grace, that we may so "redeem the time." Restore our failing powers with constant sustenance from Heaven, the Bread of Life, the wine of Thy most precious Blood. So bring us with the Flock of Thy Redeemed safe home into that Fold where Thou, our Heavenly King and Shepherd, reignest evermore. Amen.

II. SAINTS' DAYS AND HOLY DAYS.

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Nov. 30. *S. ANDREW.*

S. MATT. IV. 18-22. (Gos.)

Faithful Following of Christ.

O BLESSED LORD AND MASTER, Jesus Christ, Who calledst Andrew from his nets to follow Thee, and straightway he rose up and followed Thee, and henceforth cast the net of Thy Holy Church, that He might gather in the souls Thou lovest: Give to us, whom Thou hast also called, the spirit always to obey Thy Voice, that we may suffer no entanglement of worldly cares, no occupation of this worldly life, no clinging ties of kindred or affection, to prevent us from the work of Thy disciples. We thank Thee for the preaching of Thy Word, the warnings of Thy Gospel, calling us to true repentance. Lead us, Thou Lamb of God, along the narrow way that leadeth unto Life, and fill us with Thy Spirit, that we may with readiness and perseverance follow on to know Thee more and more; albeit we should have to tread the painful way that brought Thee to Thy Cross. Teach us Thyself, Lord, where Thou mayst be found, and where and how we may abide with Thee; and cleanse us from all sin that would forbid Thy presence in our hearts. Grant us that perfect love which shall constrain us to bring others to Thee. Fill us with that pure, divine compassion which drew down Thyself to suffer for our sins, that we may burn with holy zeal to win all whom we love, and all we ought to love, to taste Thy sure salvation. By Thy grace still draw us after Thee, that we may come at last to see Thee where Thou reignest, with the Father and the Spirit, in the glories of the highest Heaven, God and King for evermore. Amen.

Dec. 21. *S. THOMAS.*

S. JOHN XX. 24-31. (Gos.)

The Gift of Faith.

ALMIGHTY GOD, bestow on us, we pray Thee, that great gift of Faith, without which none can come to Thee. So guide us and enlighten by Thy Blessed Spirit, that we may with care and diligence observe those means of grace Thou hast ordained in Thy Holy Church, whereby the seed of humble Faith may be renewed and strengthened in our hearts. Reveal to us the Truth, by constant study of Thy Holy Word; engraft it in our minds, that we may love and practice all its precepts. Bring us to Thy House, where we may hear Thy voice, and feel the blessing promised to united prayer. And chiefly, make us constant guests at that most Holy Table, where we may discern the Body broken and the Blood outpoured for us, and plead before Thee, "till He come," the precious offering of the Lamb of God. Confirm and strengthen thus our wavering Faith, even as to unbelieving Thomas Thou didst grant to touch the sacred wounds of Jesus, and to hide his doubts within that pierced Side. Vouchsafe that we be no more faithless, but believing. Though we see Him not with these our bodily eyes, enable us by grace to feel Him near,—to find in Him our Friend, our Loving Lord, our great atoning Sacrifice. O Heavenly Father, hear us in Thy love, and pour upon our hearts Thy unction from above. Lift us above these things of sight and sense, that we may see and know Thy Christ, and live in Him and to Him; stedfast and immoveable; abounding in His work, as knowing that our labour shall not be in vain. So do Thou help us while we live, and when we die, and all through Him Whom we believe although we see Him not, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Dec. 25. *THE NATIVITY.*

S. LUKE II. 8-16 (M. L. 2.)
The New Birth in Christ.

ALMIGHTY GOD, Who sittest in the Heavens, surrounded by the mighty host of angels, those "morning stars," and "sons of God," who sang together when the world was made: Behold Thy Children daring to unite their praises to the anthems of that heavenly host, who at the New Creation sang together, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth good-will to men." To us has come that Blessed Gospel brought by angels to the shepherds on the hills of Bethlehem, "unto you is born a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord," for Thou hast sent Thy Shepherds, messengers and ministers of grace, to preach to us the same glad tidings of great joy. From early days that message we have heard; Lord, guide us to that Holy City, to that House of Bread, the Church of God, wherein the Saviour may be found. Light up for us that humble manger, where we may behold the Son of God made Man, that He might suffer for us men and save us. Shew to our Faith the King of Heaven and earth, Creator of all men and angels, in a manger laid, encompassed with our poverty, and sharing our infirmity, because He loved us, and could not bear that we should perish in our sins. He knew we could not be forgiven, and reconciled to Thee, without Atonement, and Himself became the Sacrifice Eternal Law demanded. We thank and praise Thee, Who didst send the ever-blessed Son to take upon Himself our Flesh, that Body which the Holy Ghost prepared, and so became—what else might never be—a Man who could redeem mankind; a Child of Adam worthy Sacrifice for Adam's Children. Heavenly Father, take us to Thy love again, adopted children in Thy best beloved, Jesus Christ Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

Dec. 26. *S. STEPHEN'S DAY.*

ACTS VII. 55-60. (Ep.)
Witnessing for Christ.

ALMIGHTY GOD, Who didst vouchsafe to Stephen, first of martyrs, grace and courage to stand up before the world, a witness firm and brave for Christ, and made him, like his Master, still obedient unto death: Support us by Thy Holy Spirit in the battle set before us, that with faithful hearts and true we may fight manfully beneath the banner of the Cross, nor be ashamed to make confession of our faith in Jesus crucified. As we have seen the Babe in His humility, low in His manger-cradle, so reveal to us the risen Christ; and from the darksome cave at Bethlehem raise our hearts, that we may see Him in His glory, crowned at Thy right hand. We thank Thee for Thy wondrous mercy that, though born in sin, and children of Thy wrath, in Him Thou didst create us newly children of Thy love, and members of His body, heirs with Him of Heaven. Fix these hearts of ours, O Heavenly Father, on the glorious prize of our inheritance, that for the joys thus set before us we, like our example, may despise the shame, endure the Cross, and brave the scorn and malice of the world. So may we reach the mark of our high calling in Christ Jesus. Enable us in all our tribulations here below, the wiles of Satan, the contradiction of sinners, the ridicule and persecution of the envious world, to look beyond and upward to the opened Heaven, where the Saviour stands, encompassed with that cloud of witnesses rejoicing in our warfare, cheering us with words of hope, and promises of love, and holding out the crowns of victory and glory He Himself has won for us. Grant these our prayers, O Lord, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST'S DAY.

Dec. 27.

S. JOHN XXI. 19-25.

Jesus our Friend.

O JESUS, Who from all the sons of men, Whom Thou didst love beyond the love of men, didst choose Saint John to be the friend Thy human heart desired: Engraft in us those lovely graces which conform us most to Thee. Enable us to look to Thee in all things, and so contemplate and study Thy divine perfections that the likeness of Thy loveliness may grow in us, and so we may approach Thee nearer, till we come, like Thy beloved disciple, even to lean upon Thy Bosom, and draw from the sacred fountain of Thy lips the sweet endearing confidences of Thy friendship. Although Thou hast not granted us to shine as lights within Thy Church, Apostles or Evangelists, yet we rejoice that we may look to greater blessedness, the blessedness of having Thee to be our Friend, a Friend that sticketh closer than a brother, and whose love exceeds all human love, as Heaven is higher than earth. Reveal Thyself to us, that we may see Thy glory, "full of grace and truth." Teach us to love Thee for that first Thou lovedst us. Give us such perfect trust and confidence in Thee as may prepare us for a life of stedfast duty and brave following of Thee, and nerve us for endurance of our trials. Make us to know Thee in the blessed Sacrament of love, that we may come to Thee, and Thou to us; be one with Thee, and Thou with us. And as Thou didst in gracious vision shew to Thy disciple the same heart of love he had known in Thy lowliness, unchanged beneath Thy robe of Glory, and didst bid him "Fear not," so from us cast out all fear agreeing not with perfect love, that we may come, in humble faith and confidence, to share Thy Bliss for evermore. Amen.

Dec. 28. *THE INNOCENTS' DAY.*

S. MATT. II. 13-18 (Gos.)

Child-Confessors.

O HEAVENLY FATHER, Who didst call the little babes of Bethlehem to be the "first-fruits unto God and to the Lamb:" Endue us with such innocence of life, such guilelessness of spirit, such humility of heart, as may secure for us, through His prevailing merits, place within Thy Household as true children of Thy love in Christ. Heavy fell the blow upon those weeping mothers, when Thou didst call their little ones away; but louder than the wail of lamentations that rose up from Ramah rang the glad songs of rejoicing angels, as they welcomed in the clouds of Heaven souls unspotted from the world, unsullied by its cares and sins. Right dear to Thee, O God, are all the guileless ones, of lowly, child-like spirit. Make us then as little children. Wean our souls from sin and all unholiness. Feed us with food convenient for us, as Thy children in Christ Jesus, and sustain us in the arms of Thy divine compassion. Thou dost dwell within the high and Holy Place, and also in the humble contrite spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to raise to joy the saddened hearts of contrite ones. O grant us true contrition and repentance, that we may return to Thee, Whose love we have so scorned, and be received, forgiven and restored, amid the songs of glad rejoicing angels, to Thy love again. Transform us to the image of Thine own dear Son, that we may testify that we are born anew, and lambs of Thy redeemed flock, through Jesus Christ, Thy Holy Child, our Saviour. Amen.

THE CIRCUMCISION AND THE NEW YEAR.

Jan. 1.

S. LUKE II. 15-21.

The Preparation by Discipline.

O GOD, Whose blessed Son was born under the Law, and for our sake did bear its burdens: Help us, Thy children, so to live that we may not abide its curse, but render unto Thee the free and willing service Thou requirest from the sons of Thy adoption. As Thy Son Incarnate set forth on His earthly life prepared by suffering to suffer what He must for our redemption, so prepare us for another year of life by granting us true circumcision of the Spirit. Cut away from us all sinful habits, all indulgences by which in the past years we have endangered our salvation. Give us grace that we may pluck out every eye of lust, and cut off every hand that reacheth unto wickedness, that so with strength renewed we may set forth afresh upon the narrow way that leadeth unto Life. We bear the Name He bore, our suffering Saviour; we are sealed with His Cross; enable us to bear our crosses as becomes His faithful soldiers. If the coming year should bring unkindness, sickness, losses, arm us in His Name to go against the multitude. So rule us with Thy discipline that trials may but strengthen us in good, and so direct Thy chastisements that every dispensation of Thy loving Hand may bring us nearer Thee, and make us still more fruitful branches of the Vine. Conform us more and more to His example, that, partaking of His sufferings, we may be partakers also of His consolation. Help us to endure, and after we have suffered for awhile, do Thou, Who callest us to Thy eternal glory, make us perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle us, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Jan. 6. *EPIPHANY.*

S. MATT. II. 1-10 (Gos.)

Our Guiding Light.

O LORD, we thank Thee that in Thy great mercy Thou dost shew to men the way which leadeth unto Christ. Without Thy guidance we are dull and ignorant, abiding in our darkness, careless in our self-indulgence, seeking not the light. We pray Thee make in us a willing heart, and good desires, that we may long to know the Truth, and diligently seek until we find it. Lighten our dark souls with pure light of Thy Holy Spirit, and throw its beams upon the path that leadeth to eternal Day. and to the presence of Thy Christ. So strengthen us that we may follow on to know the Lord, to prize and strive for His salvation. On this earth no more in lowly form and self-imposed humiliation abides the blessed Christ, but, throned with glory, reigns with Thee in Highest Heaven. Raise our eyes in earnest faith to seek Him where He dwells, and guide our steps along this narrow way that we may press on to His presence in the light of hope, rejoicing with exceeding joy. Strengthen our Faith, that we may cast aside all hindrances, forsaking those things which would hold us back; and grant us courage that, with confidence and boldness, we may overcome all dangers and temptations of the way. Comfort our weary souls; sustain our fainting steps with all Thy ministries of grace, that we may persevere until we come at last to see the King throned in His glory, midst His Holy Angels, even Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Saviour. Amen.

Jan. 25. *THE CONVERSION OF S. PAUL.*

ACTS IX. 1-22 (Ep.)
Against Mis-directed Zeal.

O MERCIFUL GOD, Who hast in the conversion of Thy servant Paul shown forth to us the wondrous workings and abundance of Thy grace : Extend to us and all Thy people Thy forbearance and long-suffering, that even those who now do many things against the Name of Jesus, in mistaken zeal, may be directed by Thy Providence to choose the better way and persevere therein with all their powers and strength devoted to Thy service. Hear the cry that rises from Thy Church, the prayers of all Thy Saints, and look with mercy down from Heaven on all who sin in ignorance and unbelief. Unfold to all enquiring souls the vision of Thy perfect Truth. Shew unto them the good and only way of Life and Happiness. Convince the gainsayers, and stop them in their course of error. Turn them from the service of Thine enemy and theirs to humble following of Christ, and faithful teaching of that Gospel they endeavoured to destroy. Bestow upon those favoured ones, whom Thou hast called within Thy Church to minister in holy things, such fervent zeal as Thou didst give S. Paul, so tempered with a wise discretion. Strengthen them to preach the Word "in season and out of season," undaunted by the fear of labours, perils, watchings, weariness of soul, or persecution of the world. Let none of those things trouble them, nor suffer them to be ashamed. Guard us from undue presumption on our privileges, lest we scorn all that seem not of us, despising those who may be chosen vessels of Thy mercy, though we know it not. Help us to use the light Thou givest as true children of the Light, that we may walk therein with humble faith, and careful following of all Thy Saints, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

THE PURIFICATION OF S. MARY THE VIRGIN.

Feb. 2.

S. LUKE II. 22-32 (Part Gos.)

The Purifying Presence of Christ.

O GOD, Who art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, Discerner of the thoughts and motions of the heart: So cleanse us by Thy Spirit, that we prove not stains on the white vesture of Thy Church, nor spots in Thy pure Feast of Love, and thus be cast away from Thee, and from Thy Holy Body, wherein nothing that defileth may abide. Establish in our hearts the purifying Presence of Thy Christ, that He may be in us a Fire, not to consume, but to refine; that He may cleanse these temples of our body, and make them fit abodes for Thee. Our only hope of treading in Thy Courts with sinless steps depends on that pure Offering Whose Blood was shed before Thee, and of Whose Flesh Thou makest us partakers at the hands of Thine ordained priests. Accept of us, we pray Thee, in Thine Own Beloved; of Thine Own we give Thee. Cherish and increase in us those Heavenly dispositions which Thou didst bestow when first we were presented in Thy Temple. We have stained that pure baptismal robe; polluted more and more these hearts which Thou hadst cleansed. Renew Thy Holy Spirit within us, that, prepared by prayer, by watching, self-denial, and repentance, we may be presented by our Great High Priest in Heaven before Thee. Grant us such a sober, righteous, godly life, as may ascend before Thee like sweet incense. Thus, like Thy servant Simeon, with Christ, though not within our arms, yet in our hearts, enable us most joyfully to sing our "Nunc dimittis," with a humble confidence that when the day of our departure draweth nigh, we shall depart in peace, believing in His merits, trusting in His Love, and so accepted to Thy Throne and Kingdom for His Sake. Amen.

Feb. 24. *S. MATTHIAS.*

ACTS I. 15-26 (Ep.)

Thankfulness for Church Privileges.

ALMIGHTY God, we praise and glorify Thy glorious Name, who hast permitted us in Thy great mercy to be born of Christian parents, and admitted us unto Thy Church and Household, very members of the Body of Thy Son our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Impress upon the hearts of all Thy children a due sense of that inestimable privilege. We thank Thee for Thy Holy Church, wherein the Apostolic line hath been preserved entire from age to age, by due and proper ordination, and the laying on of hands of Bishops and successors of Thy servants the Apostles, handing down from one to other, even till our day, that Spirit which was breathed into Matthias. Bless, we pray Thee, unto us those means which Thou hast chosen, by the which to plant and keep alive amongst ourselves the teachings of Thy Gospel. Help us so to value all the means of grace within our reach as sent direct from Thee, though ministered by human hands, and should they seem to fail in any case, not to impute their unsuccess to any want of efficacy in them, but to some defect in those who use them. Pour upon the Bishops and Pastors of Thy flock increasing measures of Thy grace. Commit to faithful men those holy Truths which they may teach to others also. Thy design and purpose cannot fail. The gates of hell, we know, cannot prevail against Thy Church. Although some instruments may fail, Thou lackest not for others who shall take their place. Raise up then faithful priests to do according to Thy Holy Will. Preserve Thy Church from false Apostles; and so guide and order us, that after serving Thee with faithfulness on earth we may enjoy the blessings of Thy Heavenly Kingdom, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

March 25. *ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.*

S. LUKE I. 26-38 (Gos.)
Self-Surrender and Humility.

ALMIGHTY GOD, Who in Thine anger didst send down Thy angel, armed with flaming sword, to bar the gates of Paradise against the sinning Adam, and again in mercy didst announce, as on this day, to Mary the fulfilment of Thy promise that in Jesus, as the second Adam, all men should be saved: We praise and bless Thy glorious Name for this our Hope, and joy. Lift up our hearts and minds at this time also to that Cross on which Thy Son Incarnate did devote Himself to die. And teach us by the example of that "blessed among women," of whom He was Incarnate, how to live in such a manner as may bring us all the blessing of His death and Incarnation. Form within us Christ. Renew in us His likeness, given in our Baptism, but, alas! how damaged since, and marred by sin. And make of us such faithful followers of Jesus, that in doing Thy most holy will, we may be known even as His "brother, sister, mother." Send Thy Holy Ghost to brood upon our hearts, and fill us with a humble Faith, that we may meekly give ourselves to Thee. Let us count ourselves Thy servants and handmaidens, ready ever to declare with Mary, "Be it unto me according to Thy Will." Impress us with deep reverence and holy awe of Thy pure Presence. Stablish in our minds the sense that Thou art ever with us, and about us Thy unseen but ministering angels, lest we soil ourselves with things unfit for such companionship. Prepare us so to live the life of Jesus crucified, that we may come at last by Thy great mercy, through His Cross and Passion, to partake of *His redemption,* through the same our Saviour Jesus *Christ. Amen.*

ASH WEDNESDAY.

S. MATTHEW XI. 28-30.
Calls to Repentance.

O CHRIST, who callest us, borne down and heavy laden with our sins, to come to Thee: Grant us to heed Thy call and come, that we may find our rest. Make us to feel our need, the burden of our grievous sins, the load of unrepented, unforgiven sins, which keeps us back from God. Owning our wickedness with tears of sorrow, and believing in Thy Word, with trust in Thy atonement and Thy love, we dare to lay before Thee heart, and powers, and life. Brought to Thee in our Baptism, nearer still in Confirmation; joined to Thee in mystical Communion of Thy Body and Blood, alas! how often have we strayed away and left Thee, but to gather up fresh loads of sin; and yet Thy blessed voice still promises us pardon and restoring grace. In all the fears and doubts, the falls and trials of our daily life, Thy Word comes to us with a message of fresh strength and comfort. Give us grace to take Thy yoke upon us, with a ready will and single heart, resolved to know and do the work Thou givest. Make us diligent in learning from Thy Word, Thy Spirit, Thy Example. Bow the stubborn hearts to bend beneath Thy teaching to the humble using of Thy Sacraments and means of grace in faith. Convince us that Thy Service is no vile humiliating bondage, but true freedom from hard taskmasters. Uphold us with Thy love, that we may cheerfully take up Thy yoke, and bear Thy burden gladly. Thou wilt fit the burden to our strength, and give more power as Thou addest weight. So train us by our service of Thee here below for those blest ministries of grace and love, which round Thy Throne in Heaven we shall offer up, with all Thy Saints and Angels and Archangels evermore. Amen.

MONDAY BEFORE EASTER.

S. LUKE XXII. 39-46.
Jesus in Gethsemane.

O BLESSED JESUS, loving Saviour, we implore Thee by that bitter grief which in the garden of Gethsemane weighed down Thy soul, come to our aid when we are overwhelmed with dread. and fear of death and judgment. Even Thy human soul required the quiet time of rest and calm communion with God; be with us when in secret we betake ourselves to Him. Refresh us in our solitude, and so prepare our minds for coming trials. Holy Jesu, teach us by Thy patient Agony to bow submissive to the will of that eternal God, Who is our Father, merciful and gracious, that we may accept all those things which His Providence may set before us; knowing no desires but His commands. In all afflictions bring us to His feet for pardon and support, that we may wait in patience for deliverance in such times and ways as are reserved in His own power, and such as He dispenses from His infinite love, and wisdom, and compassion. Grant to us the gift and spirit of prayer, and by Thy gracious intercession supplement our ignorance, and passionate desires, and foolish longings. Strengthen us by faith and hope, and send to us Thy angel to defend and help us when we shrink beneath temptations of the devil. Let the virtue of Thy sufferings give us strength to bear the length of sickness, grief, or pain, without impatience. Cause our souls to rest for ever perfectly submissive to Thy will, and to accept alike for love of Thee both health and sickness, life and death, prepared to say with Thee, "Thy will, O God, not mine, be done." So may we know those blessings chosen by Thy wisdom, purchased by Thy Passion, granted by Thy grace, to all Thy Saints and servants, *for Thy blessed sake.* Amen.

TUESDAY BEFORE EASTER.

S. MARK XV. 1-14.

Lessons from the Enemies of Jesus.

O CHRIST, our Lord and God, Who by Thy sufferings and wounds hast purchased remedies and healing for our sins: Behold us in Thy boundless love, and keep us from the sins of those Thy bitter enemies, Who brought Thee to the Cross. "For envy," Pilate knew, the Priests and Pharisees delivered Thee. It was not guilt, but goodness, set Thy foes against Thee, jealousy that Thou hadst won the people's love. Cast out from these our hearts that envious spirit which prevailed amongst them, and which now makes Christians grudge their brethren's gifts. Revive our sleeping conscience, lest, regardless of its warnings, and despite our better sense, we follow evil counsels, or "to please the people" sin against the right. Let us not charge our brethren wrongfully, remembering how Thou wast "accused of many things;" or, when ourselves accused, enable us to bear it patiently, as Thou didst, answering not a word, but knowing in ourselves that we are verily guilty in so many things, not innocent as Thou. And if in this life we must often stand, as Thou didst, silent, answering nothing, fix our faith on that great day, when Truth shall stand triumphant. in the face of men and angels. May we never hasten to forget Thy Words, so full of wisdom, so divine; Thy deeds of love so wonderful; Thy claims to be the Christ so sure. We have Thee for our very Lord and King: "What shall we do unto Thee?" Never let us with our sins put Thee to open shame, or "Crucify the Lord afresh," but humbly, lovingly rejoice and glory in Thy Name, and so find entrance, for Thy sake, where with the Father and the Holy Ghost Thou reignest, King of kings, for evermore. Amen.

WEDNESDAY BEFORE EASTER.

S. LUKE XXII. 1-6 (Part Gos.)
The Betrayal.

O GRACIOUS SAVIOUR JESUS, Whom the traitor Judas, tempted by the devil, for a few small coins betrayed unto Thine enemies: Remove from us all covetousness, and base indulgence in self-seeking thoughts, unworthy of the name and character of those who call themselves Thy followers. Deliver us, good Lord, from envy, lest the spirit of the chief priests urge us on to do their works, in hatred, malice, persecution, even unto death. Thou callest us Thy "friends, and no more servants;" make us worthy of that noble calling, and defend us from all longings and desires that would make us false to Thee. Root out all love of riches, and all sinful love of creatures, that we be content with what Thou sendest for our daily wants, nor long for anything that would obscure Thy love; devoting unto Thee both life and soul and body; caring not for treasures of this earth, but laying up in Heaven riches that can never fade away. Direct us by Thy Holy Spirit, that we may fix our hearts on Thee alone, preferring what Thou lovest, setting nothing else before Thee, lest we hide Thy bright Example, and forget Thy charity, Thy lowliness, Thy all-abounding, all-forgiving Love. Keep us away from those easy downward steps that lead to sin, lest in a few short moments we destroy our peace, our honesty, our purity, our hopes of pleasing Thee, and winning Heaven. Let Thy restraining grace prevent us when temptation comes, or opportunities arise for seeming safe indulgence in our secret sins. For we indeed are frail and weak, and Thou alone canst help us to resist and conquer when the trial comes. O help us Lord, and keep us in Thy love, for Thy Name's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY BEFORE EASTER.—MAUNDY THURSDAY.

S. LUKE XXIII. 7-30 (Part Gos.)
Institution of the Lord's Supper.

O MOST MERCIFUL and gracious Jesus, blessed Saviour, Who while in the world didst so love Thy disciples, and didst love them to the end; and even in the days of Thy most bitter passion pouredst out Thine heart in supplication to the Father for them and in their behalf: Make us, who here remain and solemnise once more the awful week wherein the world was saved, to be partakers of that same unchanging love, and bear us in remembrance in Thy glorious and prevailing intercession, Who hast suffered for us once for all on earth, and now dost live our Advocate and Mediator at the right hand of the Majesty on High. We praise and glorify Thy Holy Name, O Blessed Jesus, Who the night before Thou sufferedst, didst institute that Holy Sacrament, wherein Thou dost, until Thy Second Coming, shew Thyself to us, and make us true partakersof that Body and that Bloodwhich Thou didst give and shed for us. Have mercy on us, that we stagger not in unbelief at these Thy very words, "This is My Body, this is my Blood." Thou art the Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of all the world, and Thou alone canst feed and strengthen us to everlasting life. Drive from our hearts all that displeases Thee, and kindle in us humble love and longing for this pledge of Thy redeeming love. Make us approach Thy Altar with devout affections, deep humility and reverence, and pure and contrite hearts; a lively faith, with thankfulness and charity. And so replenish us with Heavenly Food, that we may journey safely in that strength, until we come to Thy great Feast in Heaven, and there enjoy the plenteousness of Thy House for ever. Amen.

GOOD FRIDAY.

S. JOHN XIX. 16-22. (Part Gos.)
Jesus Crucified.

O JESU, Lord of Life and glory, now we see Thee enter on the road to death. The sentence is pronounced; the world has done its evil worst, and straightway Thou dost bear Thy cross to die! When we are called to bear our cross, O sanctify it to our souls and life eternal. Teach us to submit to all our trials, for they must be less than those that Thou didst bear for us, Who finishedst Thy holy passion in such pain and anguish that nothing could be greater but Thyself, and Thine immeasureable mercy. And for man Thou thus didst suffer, even for us, than whom could nothing be more wretched, save Thyself, who so becamest by the undertaking of our guilt and punishment. And now, O Lord, when Thou hast done so much for us, be pleased to make it all effectual for us, that all Thy passion be not lost and wasted as for our salvation. More, far more, than we can give of love, and pure devotion, do we owe Thee, but do Thou convert us wholly into love, and love into obedience, which with all its imperfections we implore Thee to accept. O make us to be something Thou delightest in, that we may render some return for all Thy bitter pains. If suffering, in Thee we see the Sufferer with pierced hands and feet upon the shameful cross. If outcasts by the world despised, we see Thee of Thine own rejected. If sinners, we behold Thee pleading for us with our God. O Jesus, teach us to live wholly unto Thee, and readily to die for Thee unto the world. Clothe us, O sweetest Saviour, in Thy holy robe of innocence and righteousness. Our sins hide in Thy Wounds, and bury them within Thy grave; and raise us to the life of grace, where we may grow until *we come to Thine* eternal Kingdom, and the glory of *the Father, for Thy* blessed Sake. Amen.

EASTER EVEN.

S. MATT. XXVII. 57-66. (Gos.)
Christ in the Grave.

ALMIGHTY GOD, Who didst embolden Joseph, who, being rich, had much to lose, to venture all, and brave all shame in daring to declare himself a follower of Jesus: Give us grace that, after his example, we may never be afraid to own that we are Christians indeed, and lovers of Thy Church and Word. As he received the sacred Body from the Cross, so make us to receive it at the Holy Table sacramentally within our hearts, renewed by grace and cleansed from sin. As holy women meditated by the sepulchre of Jesus, help us so to bear in mind that when the faithful live no longer in our sight, they are not lost, but wait in Paradise, expecting till with them we be made perfect. Teach us in this our day of earthly life so to subdue the body to the spirit that, when this, our mortal flesh, shall fall into decay, our souls may be received to everlasting rest and peace. O grant that we, who have been grafted in Christ Jesus by the similitude of His death, be also sure partakers of His resurrection. Help us to bury all our sinful lusts, with contrite tears and bitter works of true repentance; so the Cross Thou sendest, borne for Jesus, may preserve our flesh from sin, and raise our souls to rest and peace within the bosom of the Saviour. Take away from us all fear of death, for He has conquered death. His sepulchre is new, untainted by corruption, and around it blooms a garden of delights, with paths of pleasantness and peace, and sweetest odours of Thy grace, and love, and hope. O lead us through that gate of life eternal, where our Lord has gone before; that we, with all we love, at last may be partakers of Thy Heavenly Kingdom, through the merits of the same, our Saviour Christ. Amen.

EASTER MONDAY.

S. LUKE XXIV. 27-35. (Part Gos.)
Jesus known in the Breaking of the Bread.

O BLESSED JESUS, Who didst feel for Thy disciples, sorrowing and saddened in their journey, weak in faith, and wondering at all things that had happened in Jerusalem, frightened and perplexed because they knew not Thee : Be with us ever in our pilgrimage, and bless us in the way we go. Reveal Thyself, that we be not as strangers in Thy Church, Thy City, our Jerusalem. Unfold to us the lessons of Thy Resurrection from the dead, that, though we see Thee not with bodily eyes, we may by faith discern Thee, and acknowledge Thee with joy. Help us to read and mark Thy blessed Scriptures with enlightened minds, directed by Thy Holy Spirit, that we may thus grow wise unto salvation. In the gathering darkness Thou alone canst be our Light. When faith grows dim, shew unto us Thy saving Presence, and abide with us unto the end. Times have been when we felt Thee near to us : we welcomed Thee, and tasted of Thy goodness, and our hearts did burn within us, and our eyes were opened that we knew Thee ; but, alas! how soon we lost Thee from our side ; the world and self stepped in and hid Thee ; love waxed cold and faint. Lord, light again in us that holy fire, that spark of hope and glory. Quench the flame of evil lusts that spring so readily within our sinful hearts, and open Thou our eyes that we may see Thee near, and hear again Thy gracious words of Truth and Love. O make us to discern Thy Holy Body and Thy Precious Blood. O feed and satisfy us with Thyself, and save our souls alive. Shew us Thy mercy. Grant us Thy Salvation. Raise us by Thy Resurrection to the regions of eternal bliss, where with the Father and the Holy Ghost Thou reignest evermore. Amen.

EASTER TUESDAY.

S. LUKE XXIV. 36-48. (Gos.)
Joy of the Resurrection.

O MERCIFUL REDEEMER, Who didst rise again victorious over sin and death, the Conqueror of all the foes of our salvation, having won for us forgiveness of our sins, and peace and reconciliation with the Father: Thou art ever near us, even "in the midst," wherever two or three together join to worship Thee. We gather here to supplicate Thy mercy: in Thy Name we dare approach the Father, waiting for His goodness and Thy blessing. Look upon us, we beseech Thee, risen Saviour; in Thy love say to us, "Peace be unto you." Remove far from us all unworthy doubts, and questionings, and fears, that we may hear Thy Gospel, and receive it joyfully. And though, as yet, we may not fully comprehend, reveal to us sufficient to confirm our faith, to drive away all troubled thoughts, that we may live in hope, rejoicing in the sunshine of Thy mercy, casting all our care on Thee. As Thou didst rise triumphant o'er the grave, so we believe that we shall rise again, with this same body, changed and glorified, fashioned like unto Thine, made meet for immortality by Thy preserving grace, and very members of Thy Body, looking for that Resurrection. Help us, Lord, to keep these Temples of Thy Spirit pure and holy, that we may with gladness look to share in that new life with Thee. Preserve in us those tokens of Thy presence, and such image of Thy likeness that we may be known as Thine, as Thou wert known by wound-prints of Thy hands and feet. Permit no enemy to rob us of that glory Thou hast won so painfully for us; but fill us with Thy Presence, that in Thee we may prevail and triumph gloriously, and win through Thee the crown of Everlasting Peace. Amen.

April 25. *S. MARK.*

EPHES. IV. 7-16. (Epis.)
Edification in Christ.

O GOD, Who didst by Thy Evangelist S. Mark prepare the highway of the Lord, by casting out the stones of doubt and ignorance, and lifting up before our eyes the standard of the Cross: We pray Thee so to guide our minds and understandings that in reading this "good news" we may be drawn as "with the cords of a man," with ties of human sympathy, to know our Lord especially as suffering Man. We thank Thee Who didst so inspire Thy servant to record for us the life on earth of God Incarnate, and set forth His precepts for the perfecting of Saints, and edifying of the Body of Christ. Be present with Thy Church as in those forty days ere His Ascension, powerful though unseen, to guide it and direct it in all Truth, preserving it for ever in the same. Make thus Thy Church to us the "witness and keeper of Holy Writ," instructing us as children in the way of our salvation; bringing every doctrine in its true and proper order to our knowledge, and revealing line by line and precept upon precept all Thy whole and perfect counsel to our minds and hearts. So may we grow "in likeness of a man," the Man Christ Jesus, planted in the Holy Faith, revealed to Thine apostles, stablished in the truths of Thy pure Gospel, faithful, living members of Thy Blessed Son. So make His Words abide in us and we in Him, that we may evermore continue in the Faith, well-grounded, settled, carried not about with every blast of doctrine, but by constancy of life, even unto death, having heard the word, may keep it, bringing forth the plenteous fruit of godly works. Thus may we glorify Thy Name as His disciples, in and through the merits of the same our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

May 1. *S. PHILIP AND S. JAMES.*

S. JAMES I. 1-12. (Ep.)
Fellowship with the Saints.

ALMIGHTY GOD, we praise and thank Thee for the blessedness Thou hast vouchsafed to us by calling us into Thy Holy Church, and thus including us in one communion and intercourse with all Thy Holy Saints, the best and holiest of mankind, and all who have pleased Thee from the beginning of the world. As publicans and sinners were allowed to sit with Jesus, so do we, though grievous sinners, dare to join that holy fellowship, for Thou hast called us to be saints. Prepare and train us for that blessed company, and so direct us by their bright examples, that our conversation and our lives may be as theirs. If we, like Philip, seem by nature slow to pierce the mysteries of truths divine, bestow upon us zeal and eagerness like his to bring the knowledge that we have home to the hearts of others. Make us wise in winning souls to Christ, and tender in our dealings with enquiring souls. While conscious of our own unworthy weakness, make us very gentle with the doubts of others, patiently awaiting fuller revelations of Thy truth. With Saintly James' account of us as "very brethren of the Lord," so near to Him in every tender grace and heavenly virtue, just, and merciful, and loving, that we may be known as Thy true children in the well-beloved Son. When trials sore beset us, scorn of man, or persecutions of the world, speak joy and courage to our hearts; embolden us to give our very lives for Him who shed His precious blood for us. Through many tribulations purge and make us perfect, in our weakness making manifest Thy strength, and turning unto good all things for Thine elect. So bring us, Holy Father, safe to Thine eternal mansions, through Thy Son our Lord. Amen.

ASCENSION DAY.

S. MARK XVI. 14-20. (Gos.)
Ascending with Christ.

O BLESSED LORD, Who by the doubts of Thy Apostles didst establish us the more in faith, by many proofs confirming to the Church Thy glorious Resurrection from the dead: So draw us after Thee that we may see Thee in Thy Victory, ascending where Thou wast before. "No man hath ascended up to Heaven, but the Son of Man Who is in Heaven;" yet Thou canst make us sit in heavenly places with Thee, Jesus, Who wast made a little lower than the Angels, crowned now with glory. Work within us by Thy Spirit, those amazing wonders of Thy grace, that from our hearts all grovelling thoughts of earth may be cast out. Give unto us new tongues, that we may praise Thy Holy Name. Turn death of sin to life and holiness; to heavenly joy, all mortal suffering; all sickness and corruption into spiritual health. In faith we see Thee midst the clouds of angels entering the glorious gates; enable us in faith and prayer to wait without, expecting till Thou come again. Uphold us by Thine own constraining power, and free us from those clinging bonds which keep us from Thee, that in heart and mind we may with Thee ascend; no more delighting in the weary loads which we have heaped unto ourselves, but looking, longing for Thee, blessed Master, that we may be with Thee where Thou art. Grant us to see Thee there within the Veil, for ever offering the precious Blood outpoured on earth, and with Thy Church still shewing forth Thy Body broken, pleading with the Father. Help us here to suffer pain and loss with Thee, rejoicing if thought worthy so to bear Thy likeness, that with Thee at last we may find entrance to eternal glory and the Father's love, for Thy Name's sake. Amen.

MONDAY IN WHITSUN-WEEK.

S. JOHN III. 16-21. (Gos.)

For Enlightenment by the Holy Ghost.

ALMIGHTY GOD AND HEAVENLY FATHER, Who so didst love the world that Thou didst give Thine only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should never perish, but have everlasting life; and Who didst send, as at this time, Thy Holy Ghost to keep us in that Faith: Defend us by that Spirit from all sin and unbelief, and quicken in our hearts those godly longings after good which Thou hast planted there. Bring them to good effect in keeping Thy commandments, that we may not be condemned. Enrich us with His gifts; refresh us with His comforts; lead us into ways of Truth and love and goodness, that we wilfully refuse not to believe Thy Gospel, or despise the riches of Thy goodness in our Saviour Jesus Christ. O suffer not Thy servants who profess the Name of Christ, in heart to disbelieve, or act and live as though they never heard the Truth. Let no temptation seize upon us, inciting us to tamper with those deadly sins which must destroy our souls; no curiosity or hankering after things forbidden to possess our minds. Shew us the dangers that surround us. Shed abroad Thy Light, that we may love it, blotting by its brightness every dark spot from our hearts, and shining more and more unto the perfect day. Let no dark cloud of hidden sin come in between our eyes and Thee, nor any false repentance so deceive our souls that we should lose the light and guidance of Thy grace. Direct the souls that seek and strive for righteousness, and cherish all their good intentions by Thy Mercy, that in Jesus they may find a Friend. O let Thy Spirit witness with our spirit that we are indeed Thy children, sealed to the day of our Redemption in the Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY IN WHITSUN-WEEK.

S. JOHN X. 1-10. (Gos.)
The True Fold.

O LORD GOD, Fountain of Life, Giver of all good things, who givest to men the blessed hope of everlasting life by our Lord Jesus Christ, and hast promised Thy Holy Spirit to them that ask Him: We bless and praise Thy glorious Name Who hast admitted us within the Fold, Thy Church, and hast preserved to us in this land those Apostolic Orders, Truths, and Sacraments, that scriptural faith, and godly discipline, which by the Holy Ghost were taught to Thy Apostles. Make us worthy members of that Holy Body. Guide us ever by Thy Spirit, and be present with us in the study of Thy Word, that so among the divers judgments and opinions of this world we may be kept in stedfastness of faith, and purity of practice, from all errors and false doctrines. Lead us in those safe and pleasant pastures, where the Good Shepherd, even Jesus Christ Thy Son, doth feed His flock In mercy look upon Thy Church throughout the world, and strengthen Her in Thy great goodness. Help and succour those whom Thou hast called in the name of Christ to be as shepherds of Thy flock. Give to the Bishops wisdom to direct, and knowledge to discern when errors threaten, and courage to defend the Faith. Sanctify the Priests and Deacons, yea, and all Thy people, that in purity and holiness, in faith and charity, they may shew forth to men the power of Thy Gospel, and make known Thy love in Christ. Grant us Thy peace, and help us by the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, that living with pure hearts and conscience clear, we may be joined together in the bonds of peace and love, and come at last, one Body in one Spirit, to that one Fold where our Shepherd reigneth evermore, through Him our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

June 11. *S. BARNABAS.*

ACTS XI. 22–50. (Epis.)
Rejoicing in the good of others.

O LORD JESU CHRIST, Who hast, by giving us Thy Holy Spirit, set Thy seal upon us, and so marked us out from all the world as Thine own children: Grant us more and more of Thy true Spirit; make it shine so brightly in our hearts and lives, that men may see that we are Thine indeed, and good, and full of faith. As Barnabas "rejoiced to see the grace of God," even when it shone so brightly in his brethren as to hide and quite eclipse his own more feeble light, so give to us that charity which "envieth not" the spiritual gifts of others, but rejoices rather that to them is given the power to do that good which we desire. Unite in us a zealous care for others' good, with scrupulous endeavour to hold forth a good example in ourselves. Keep ever in our view, as that for which to work, the growth and progress of Thy Church and Kingdom, lest we waste our zeal upon mere sect or party; but, like holy Barnabas, so fill us with Thy Spirit, that we may regard not self or others' glory, but may labour only that "much people may be added to the Lord." When men, wise in their own conceits, assail us with their questions, make our reasons known in actions of a holy life, and help us with all Christian boldness to obey Thy Word and Holy Church, that so the enemies of Truth may be ashamed, and all who are with us partakers of Thy Gospel may with steady purpose of the heart cleave unto Thee. Bestow upon us largeness of heart, and bountiful desire to spend and to be spent for Thy sake. Grant to all who minister to Thy poor the apostolic spirit of a wise discretion. Make us ever to delight in others' good, and chiefly that Thy Name be glorified in all Thy Church throughout the world Amen.

June 24. *NATIVITY OF S. JOHN THE BAPTIST.*

S. LUKE I. 57-80. (Gos.)

What manner of men we ought to be.

WE THANK THEE, Lord, for Thy great Saint and servant John the Baptist; for the blessings offered us by his example and his preaching. Teach us how to treasure up the wonders of His birth, and glean good lessons of obedience from His Gospel, and true faith in Jesus Christ. As Thou hast made us greater than this greatest of the prophets, in that we are very members of Thy Christ, bone of His Bone, and flesh of His Flesh, shew to us what manner of men we ought to be, who have been brought so near to Jesus. Make us ready to receive Thy Son our Lord Himself, within us worthily. Produce in us such fruits of Godliness and holy conversation, such entire repentance, with such humble self-abasement and confession of our sins, as ought to be in those who are entrusted with more grace, more privileged as very members of Thy Heavenly Kingdom. Sanctify and make us meet as vessels for our Master's use. From early childhood fill the sons and daughters of Thy people with the Holy Ghost, renewing day by day the seven-fold graces of Thy Spirit. wherewith they may overcome the seven-fold sins that so assault and hurt the soul. Enable us to conquer pride by humbleness and lowliness of mind; by bounty, covetousness; by purity of heart, all lust and luxury; by self-denial, gluttony; by meekness, anger; envy, by true charity; by strict obedience, sloth. Let not our youth be shaken from the right by any foolish scorn, or tempting follies of the hour. Establish in the Truth our lips; and gird us to endure all hardships in the cause of Christ. So fill us with pure love of Thee and holiness, that there may be no room left in our hearts for shameful or unclean affections. Make us faithful witnesses to Christ for His Name's sake. Amen.

June 29. *S. PETER.*

S. MATTHEW XVI. 13-19 (Gos.)
For Firmness in the Faith.

O LORD JESUS CHRIST, who hast to us and to all Christians given a new name in Baptism, as a pledge and token of Thy bountiful gifts, and that most excellent of all, the Grace, and Love, and Fellowship of Triune God: Impress upon our hearts the greatness of this boon, our Christian name, and all the blessings it betokens. Keep it in our minds that we partake Thy nature. Make us careful lest we bring disgrace upon that name we share with Peter and all Thy Apostles, rocks of which Thy Church is built, and Thou Thyself being our chief Corner-stone, so bind us all together by Thy Creeds and Sacraments, uniting us by inward sanctifying grace, as members of one Body, children of one Father, that we may become one Rock, one Temple to Thy glory. We confess that we are wavering, unsteady—Satan striveth sore to wrench us from Thy side—But pray for us, as Thou didst pray for Peter, that our faith fail not. Communicate to us of Thine unchangeable stedfastness, that we may stand unshaken through the worst of trials, firm unto the end. Impart to us the virtue flowing from Thy wounded side, Thou Rock once smitten for us, that we may abide in Thee for ever. Leave us not, lest weakness overtake us, and we act and speak as though we knew Thee not. Permit us not to rest contented in our sins, but turn on us Thy loving though upbraiding eye, and rescue us as brands from burning. Give us grace with all our hearts to believe unto righteousness, and to confess Thee with our mouths unto salvation. Keep us ever safe within the fold where Thou dost feed and guard Thy sheep, for Thy Name's sake. Amen.

July 25. *S. JAMES.*

S. MATTHEW XX. 20-28. (Gos.)

Prompt Obedience and Meekness.

O BLESSED JESUS, Who didst call S. James, and He immediately obeyed Thy call, grant us that spirit of prompt obedience, that at Thy Word we may leave all worldly occupations, and renounce all home-affections which would keep us from Thy service. Let no selfish thoughts prevail to keep us from courageously embracing every invitation to Thy side. When earthly things seem smooth and pleasant, let us not despise Thy call, or fear to follow Thee along the narrow way, endeavouring "to be perfect as our Father in Heaven is perfect." So may we partake, as did S. James, of Thy particular favour, far exceeding all that earth can give. Make us to know "what manner of spirit we are of;" and when our faith is scorned, or we are hindered in our Master's work, enlighten us, that we may see if it is self-love, or the love of Thee, which most resents the wrong. Prevent us from dishonouring Thee, by venting our mere private feelings in Thy Name, or using in Thy holy cause unchristian weapons. May we see that it is Thy cause, not our own, which Satan and the world assail; and guard us from presenting Thee before the world as bitter and ungentle as we are ourselves. Enable us to show the power and spirit of Thy Truth, by making known Thy Love, enforcing it by quiet godliness and good example. Teach us by patience to bear all things, waiting for the triumph of Thy Truth in hope and faith and love unfeigned. Let us never quench the spark of light which may be in the smoking flax by violence or roughness of untempered zeal. Make us always ready to bring near Thy Love to those who seem to hold aloof, and fervently to pray for all who *use us most despite*fully, for Thy Name's sake. Amen.

Aug. 24. *S. BARTHOLOMEW.*

S. LUKE XXII. 24-30. (Gos.)
As One that Serveth.

O BLESSED LORD, our Master, Jesu Christ, we praise and magnify Thy name that Thou hast cast our lot within the borders of Thy Holy Church, wherein that self-same spirit which into Thy Apostles Thou didst breathe of old, throughout all ages has been handed down by their successors, even to the days in which we live. O make us firmly to believe the doctrines taught by Thy Apostles, and to live in full communion with Thy Church, observing all her rules, and guarding carefully her constitutions, so convincing all gainsayers by the force of holiness and love that Thou art in her of a truth. Be present with us by Thy Spirit, and by Thy power. Make her ministers as "Israelites indeed," without hypocrisy or guile, as wise as serpents in their counsels, harmless in their acts as doves. As Thou, our King and Lord, didst shew Thyself as "One that serveth," washing Thy disciples' feet, so make Thy ministers and every member of Thy Church in lowliness and meekness each to wait upon his brethren; making of Himself to all a servant; seeking not the highest place, nor craving eminence in men's esteem, but rather hiding, like Nathaniel, his little good, unmarked except by Thee. Teach us to follow the example of Thy holy Saint, by doing quietly and faithfully the work before us in Thy Household, seeking no applause, nor claiming merit. Help us by the Holy Ghost to do those works greater than could be done before Thou wentest to the Father, casting out the evil of our souls, conquering our inmost sins, and working miracles in others' hearts by turning them to Thee, our Lord and King. Amen.

September 21. *S. MATTHEW.*

S. MATTHEW IX. 9-13. (Gos.)
Forsaking all for Christ.

O LORD AND MASTER, Jesu Christ, Who, when S. Matthew sat at the receipt of custom, calledst him to follow Thee: Grant unto us Thy grace that we may sit so loose to earthly occupations, and the profit of our several callings, that we may be ready ever to obey Thy voice, and serve and follow Thee, fit hearers of the doctrine of the Cross. Permit no spirit of this world, or craving after earthly riches, to deceive and blind our hearts to those eternal glories which surround Thee in Thy Heavenly Kingdom. Fill us with the spirit to "make haste, prolonging not the time, to walk in Thy commandments." Give us perfect trust in Thee, and true devotion of the heart, that even in the hard and narrow way, in sufferings borne humbly and sincerely for Thy sake, we may have foretaste of that heavenly sweetness which can never cloy, those pleasures that can never fade. Vouchsafe to us Thy gracious Presence in our common daily lives, ennobling honest labour, taking from the meanest occupations all their danger, breathing over all our household thoughts and ways the purifying influence of Holy Love. And if in any pleasure, profit or association, there be any peril to our souls, enable us to give them up for Thee. As Thine Apostle in his own house made a feast to do Thee honour, so continue our renewal, and so make us perfect, that our meals and households may be ordered ready for Thy coming, and our lives and conversations fitted for Thy company. Reveal Thyself to us, as to the blessed Matthew, in Thy Kingly Glory, that we may make known Thy Love, Thy Mercy, and Thy perfect Bliss; it may be making ourselves poor, yet making many *rich in Heavenly* treasures, through Thy Name. Amen.

Sep. 29. *S. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS.*

S. MATT. XVIII. 1-10. (Gos.)
Angelic Service.

O LORD, the Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God, grant unto us that with the angels and archangels, and all the company of Heaven, we may love to laud and magnify Thy glorious Name, our hearts and voices joining in that heavenly anthem, ever sung before Thy Throne. Teach us to emulate their love, the source and fountain of their services to Thee, by loving Thee, the Lord our God, with all our heart, with all our soul. with all our mind with all our strength. Especially make us to have regard to their attendance, when we meet together in Thy House, to offer up our prayers and praises, lest our lack of reverence offend that holy company. Direct us in our earthly worship by those lines of perfect order which control the solemn Courts of Heaven. We thank Thee, Who hast given to each of Thy adopted children guardian spirits to defend his steps, and help him in the way of safety. Make us careful to avoid each cause of sin, which might mislead those little ones whose angels are before Thy Face. When unclean spirits come about our path to tempt our thoughts or senses, or when false deceivers seek to turn us from the faith of Jesus, let them not prevail, but say unto us, "Fear not, more are they with you than they that be against you." May thy Will be done by us in earth, as by Thy Angel hosts in Heaven, in rank and order due; in prompt submission where Thy Will is plain; in humble prayer and reverence where we see it not. When troubled and perplexed deliver us, as Thou didst send Thy angels to Thy saints and saved them from their distress. Commend us to their loving care both now and in the hour of death, for Jesu's sake. Amen.

Oct. 18. *S. LUKE.*

2 TIM. IV. 5-15. (Epis.)
Physicians of the Soul.

O GRACIOUS MAKER, Who hast turned the punishment of sin, disease, and death, into a blessing, by providing remedies of skill and knowledge to relieve our pains: We praise and bless Thy glorious Name for all the healing mercies Thou hast granted for our souls and bodies; the friends relieved, restored; the souls snatched from the burning by Thy ministries of grace and love. We thank thee for Thy mercies to these frail distempered bodies; for Thy inward blessings to our sin-distracted souls. Prepare all hearts to take unto themselves that Sovereign Gospel message, preached by Thine Evangelist S. Luke, that it may prove the perfect cure of sin and death, and place us in the way of Life Eternal. Heal all sickness of our souls by making us partakers of Thy Son, Who was made man for us, and gave Himself upon the Cross for our redemption. Bring us near, that we may touch Him with the hands of earnest faith, and so receive that virtue from Him which alone can make us whole. Direct us how to use our natural gifts, our store of knowledge, all our skill, and arts, and powers, for Thy glory. Make us true Evangelists and preachers of Thy Gospel, not in word alone, but by the influence of holy lives. Reveal to us Thyself, in contemplation of Thy Word and Works, that we may be stirred up to bring our brethren to Thy healing Presence. Help us so to look upon men's bodies as the shrines which Thou hast sanctified, redeemed by Christ for holy use. In mercy heal all souls, O true Physician, with the wholesome medicine of Thy Word, and raise our fallen nature to the perfect life of Thy beloved in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, for His dear sake. Amen.

Oct. 28. *S. SIMON AND S. JUDE.*

S. JUDE 1-8 (Ep.)

Brethren of Christ.

BLESSED SAVIOUR, Who hast called us to be Thy brethren, sanctify us by the Father, and preserve us in Thy Body, faithful members of Thy Church, and joined to Thee in bonds of peace and love. Unite us to each other by the grace of Thy in-dwelling Spirit, perfecting, and bringing to a happy end that work begun in us by Thy great mercy. Cleanse and purify our hearts as fitting Temples of Thy Holy Spirit. Strengthen us, and plant within us holy zeal, that we may earnestly contend for that pure faith which Thou didst once for all deliver to the Saints. Sustain, and guide and comfort us, as Thou didst comfort Thine Apostles, by a stedfast faith and trust upon our Father's love, on Thy great mercy, on Thy word and Sacraments, and promises of Heaven. Guard us lest we be deceived by those who turn the grace of God into lasciviousness, denying Thy pure Godhead and true manhood, making light of Thy atoning sacrifice and Resurrection from the dead. Permit not us Thy brethren to forget that we are Thine, to disbelieve our holy calling, lest we perish at the last, though once delivered from the land of bondage. Let no evil pride prevail to cast us down from all our hopes, or rob us of the great inheritance reserved for us in Heaven. Make us meek and lowly as becometh Thy disciples, those who look for that pure Home, where nothing that defileth can obtain an entrance, and where all is perfect order, due submission, prompt obedience, and perfect love. Grant this and all our prayers, O blessed Lord, for Thy dear Sake. Amen.

Nov. 1. *ALL SAINTS' DAY.*

REV. VII. 2-12 (Ep.)
Called to be Saints.

ALMIGHTY GOD, Thou King of Saints, who hast commanded us, "Be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect," setting thus Thyself, the God of Saints, before us as our pattern: As Thou always art and always doest best, enable us to aim at that which is the best we can attain to. Thou, who givest rain and sunshine to the evil and the good, O make us like to Thee in loving, praying for, forgiving all men; watching, suffering, and bearing long, as Thou, our Lord and God, in Person of our Saviour Christ, hast left us an example. Help us in our trials and temptations, through all torments and afflictions, constantly to cast ourselves on Christ, remembering Thy promises, and looking in all things to Thee, Whom yet we cannot see. Like Daniel, train us by the constant use of fervent prayer to witness for Thee. Practise us, like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, by self-denial to endure the hottest fire of persecution; like the holy Stephen, to look up to heaven, full of faith and power of the Holy Ghost. Among the poor in spirit, meek and merciful, hungering and thirsting after righteousness, make us to be as saints, in Thy sight perfect, blessed. In Thy House are many mansions, room enough for all who will come in; help us to keep our robe of Baptism clean against that day when faithful servants shall approach Thy joy, the wedding supper of the Lamb, the Kingdom Thou hast kept prepared for us from the foundation of the world. In this life make our path be as the shining light, which brighteneth more and more unto the perfect day, that day when we shall meet those dear ones who have gone before, and join with them, *and* angels and archangels, in the everlasting song of *praise, through* Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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DISCOURSE I.

* S. MATT. V. 1-12.

The Eight Beatitudes.

O LORD, Who hast taught us that humility is the gate of repentance, and a true conversion: Grant that we may be found among those of humble heart, to whom is allotted a sure portion in that state of peace, and hope, and glory, which Thy Gospel proclaims. Comfort us by the aid of the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, when we mourn in godly sorrow for our sins. Fill us with that Holy Spirit of meekness, which will make us to possess Thy earthly blessings here in peace, and Thy new Heaven and new earth in bliss for ever.

As the hart pants after the water-brooks, when heated in the chase, so may our souls yearn after Thee, O God. Then shall we hunger no more, neither thirst any more. Make us to think of the pardon we need, and so be minded to forgive our brethren. Cleanse and purify our hearts, that we may walk in the light of Thy countenance here, and rejoice in Thy pure presence hereafter. Guide our feet in peace and loving-kindness, that so we may be proved indeed Thy children, in Christ Jesus our Lord. And teach us to bear patiently all things, even the revilings and persecutions of Thine enemies, as true and faithful soldiers of the Cross; looking forward to our reward, the prize of our high calling in Heaven, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

* Gos. All Saints.

DISCOURSE II.

S. MATT. V. 13-16.

The Salt and Light of the Earth.

O BLESSED LORD, Who hast made Thy Church to be the savour of life unto life, and its faithful members even as the preserving salt of the earth: Let us not lose, by neglecting or despising the blessings of our Baptism, that virtue with which Thou hast endowed us. Help us to keep the world around us, by holiness and faith, from failing and decay, and ourselves unspotted from the world. Thou hast set us up as lights in the world; light we must give, for evil or for good, to all that are in the same Household of Faith; to all that are in the same abode of earthly life; oh! may none derive excuse from our neglect, or justify themselves in our transgression. But, while we strive to give good light and true to all, make us to prove, not only in our words, but by the very manner of all we do, that we do know indeed that we are but unprofitable servants. And while we try, with all our hearts, by our life and conduct to win others to the way of holiness, enable us to say and feel, "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy Name give the praise," for Thy loving mercy, and Thy Truth's sake. Amen.

DISCOURSE III.

* S. MATT. v. 17-26.

Gospel Righteousness and Love.

O BLESSED LORD, Who didst come, not to destroy but to fulfil the Law which Thou hadst given to Moses and the Prophets; but hast taught us that our righteousness must exceed that of the Scribes and Pharisees. Teach us to apply each separate precept of Thy blessed Gospel to every event of our earthly life, and mould our very inward thoughts upon that holy pattern. May every word and look and thought of evil be to us sin, no less than every act. Suffer us never to approach Thy Holy Feast with hatred and unforgiveness in our hearts, nor ever draw near to Thine Altar of Love without Thy love and peace first shed abroad within us. And when we pray, let the hands we lift up be holy, and our minds without wrath and doubting, for Thou alone canst search the heart and reins, and Thou hast said, "Forgive, and ye shall be forgiven." Guide the purposes of our hearts by Thy Holy Spirit, in that holy Law of love to God and our neighbour, which is the fulfilling of all the commandments. Direct us ever in these thoughts and purposes of love, that thus we may fulfil all righteousness, and prove ourselves indeed Thy true disciples, and the children of our heavenly Father, known by Him, as being in Thy likeness, Sons of God in Thee. Amen.

* Gos. 6th Sunday after Trinity.

DISCOURSE IV.

S. MATT. v. 27-37.

Purity of Heart and Life.

O LORD, Who alone canst know the secrets of our hearts, and Who art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts, by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit. Keep and guard Thy Temple, in which Thou hast promised to dwell, so that nothing may enter that defileth; and whatever evil thought may rise therein, quench it by Thy Grace. Whether it be with the eye or with the hand that we are chiefly tempted to offend, strengthen us to restrain that member which lends its aid to sin; to cut off that thought which prompts to hatred or to lust; lest our whole body be cast into hell, and the whole soul perish everlastingly. Take from us all pleasure in talking over the sins of others, that we may the more feel the weight of our own, and watch with anxious prayer ourselves, lest we enter into temptation. May it please Thee not only to strengthen such as do stand, to comfort and help the weak-hearted, but to raise up also them that fall, and finally to beat down Satan under our feet. Make us ever ready to hallow Thy Holy Name, that our speech be always with grace, honest and true, seasoned with salt. Purify our lips as well as our hearts, that we may ever follow Thee, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISCOURSE V.

S. MATT. V. 38-48.

Patience and Christian Perfection.

O LORD, Thou hast said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay." Take therefore from us all lust of vengeance, that we be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. Even as Christ suffered for us, leaving us an example that we should follow His steps, Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His Mouth: Who when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not. So bring us His servants to commit ourselves to Him that judgeth righteously. Teach us to have pity on the poor, that we may thus lend unto the Lord, Who we know will pay again in measure running over. Incline us ever to do good, and to communicate of our good to others, even as Thou art good to all, and Thy tender mercies over all Thy Works. Thus may we be found followers of God, as dear children, for Thou art kind even to the unthankful and the evil. Thou, in Thine eternal love for all, didst send Thy own beloved Son to die for all men; fill us with that same divine and universal Love, that we may shew ourselves indeed created anew in the likeness of that Son, Who prayed for those who nailed Him to the Cross; Who died for those who crucify Him still afresh. Make us perfect in every good work to do Thy Will, working in us that which is pleasing in Thy sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISCOURSE VI.

S. MATT. VI. 1-6.

Almsdeeds in Secret.

O LORD, who hast taught us that we must let our light so shine before men that they may see our good works in order to glorify not us, but our Father which is in Heaven: Help us to perform in a true and spiritual method all the duties of almsgiving and prayer. Thou knowest not only what we do, but what we think; why we do it, with what object, and for what end. When, therefore, we give, enable us to do it with simplicity, for with such sacrifices Thou art well pleased. Thou alone searchest all hearts; Thou understandest all the imaginations of the thoughts, and wilt give to every man according to his works: Grant us grace that we may do everything for Thy sake, as unto Thee; looking for no reward but that which Thou, Who seest in secret, shalt give openly in that day, when it shall be said unto them on the right hand, "Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, My brethren, ye have done it unto Me." Be ever unto us that one chief Friend, Whose praise we covet most, Whose censure we most fear. Give us grace to see Thee in all things, Who in all things seest us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISCOURSE VII.

S. MATT. VI. 7-15.

Prayer.

O HEAVENLY FATHER, Who art more willing to hear than we to pray, and Who knowest what things we have need of before we ask: Who hast said, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:" Grant us, We beseech Thee, the true spirit of prayer, that we be not rash with our mouth, nor our heart be hasty to utter anything before Thee. Teach us to form all our prayers after the fashion and on the Model which our Lord has given us. We look to Thee as our loving Father, Whom by faith we see in Heaven. May Thy Holy Name be worshipped devoutly by all Thy creatures. We pray Thee that the happiness Thou hast revealed through Thy blessed Son may soon be consummated in the triumph of Thy Church, when the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth, and sin and sorrow shall be no more. Give grace to us and to all mankind that we may both perceive and do Thy Will. Give us neither poverty nor riches, but bread convenient for us, and to our souls the Bread of Eternal Life. Forgive us the debts we owe to Thee, even as Thou hast bidden us forgive those who owe to us. Suffer us not to be tempted above that we are able to resist, but save us in each trial, and from all assaults of the devil. For Thy power is above all, and Thine is the Majesty and glory for ever. Amen.

DISCOURSE VIII.

*S. MATT. VI. 16-23.

Fasting, and Treasure in Heaven.

O GOD, Who hast commanded us to use such abstinence as may help to subdue the flesh to the spirit: So guide our self-denial that it may both promote our growth in holiness, and be rewarded by Thee, our Father, which seest in secret. Grant us such true contrition for our sins that we may turn with all our hearts to Thee, for Thou art gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness. Whatsoever we do, help us to do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men, knowing that of the Lord we shall receive the reward of the inheritance, if we serve the Lord Christ. Make us to beware of covetousness; despising this world's goods as compared with the riches of eternity. Having food and raiment, let us be therewith content, and lay up in store for ourselves a good foundation for the time to come, that we may lay hold on eternal life, and that inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and which fadeth not away, reserved in Heaven for us. Teach us to set our affections on things above, not on the earth, that we may have our conversation and citizenship in Heaven, where we have a better and more enduring substance, from whence also we look for the Saviour, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Gos. Ash Wednesday.

DISCOURSE IX.

*S. MATT. VI. 24-34.

Service of God and Mammon.

O GOD, Who hast said, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world, for the friendship of the world is enmity with God :" Grant that we may cherish no over-anxiety for the comforts and enjoyments of this present life, but ever cast our burden upon the Lord, for that He shall sustain us, and never suffer the righteous to be moved. Keep us that we be over-careful for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let our requests be made known unto Thee. Thou preparest rain for the earth, and makest grass to grow upon the mountains: Thou givest the beast its food, and to the young ravens which cry; how much more then wilt Thou care for Thine adopted children in Christ Jesus, Thine own beloved Son! Sufficient unto us is the evil of each present day; sufficient the trials and difficulties of each hour as it arrives; permit us not to add to them the fear of those things that may never come. Above all things lead us to seek the establishment of Thy Church and Kingdom in righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. Then will all things happen to us for our good; for our comfort in this world for a time, and an inheritance in Heaven hereafter for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* Gos. 15th Sunday after Trinity.

DISCOURSE X.

S. MATT. VII. 1-6.

Merciful Judgment.

O LORD, Who art the judge of quick and dead: Keep us from all rash and presumptuous judgment of either the present spiritual state, or the future eternal condition of others. Grant that we may judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, Who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts, and then shall every man have praise of God. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us, then may we teach the transgressors Thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto Thee. Instead of being forward to condemn rather make us to fear, lest our own progress in holiness may be found inferior to that of those who have not our opportunities. Remembering that there are last who shall be first, as well as first which shall be last, lead us to hope all things of all men, and mete to all that measure with which we look to have it measured to us again. Teach us to judge ourselves strictly; our neighbours charitably; where we must with mercy, where we need not, teach us not to judge at all, but leave all faithfully and hopefully in Thy hands, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISCOURSE XI.

S. MATT. VII. 7-12.

The True Spirit of Prayer.

O GOD, Who art the Hearer and Answerer of Prayer: Grant to us Thy servants the true spirit of supplication, that what things soever we desire we may ask in faith through Jesus Christ, and, thus believing we receive them, we may have them. Enable us to seek with diligence and earnestness and perseverance, guided by the light of Thy Holy Spirit, so shall we find and be satisfied. Teach us to knock eagerly, untiringly, and trustingly, that so Thy gate of mercy may be opened unto us. We come to Thee, our loving Father, as Thy children in Christ Jesus; and like as a father pitieth his own children, even so, we know, art Thou pitiful and of tender mercy; for Thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive, and plenteous in mercy to all them that call upon Thee. Thou wilt give grace and glory, and no good thing wilt Thou withhold from them that walk uprightly. Grant us to be gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men; not to imagine evil against our brother in our heart; but to love our neighbour as ourselves, and so fulfil the Law of Christ, for His Name's sake. Amen.

DISCOURSE XII.

* S. MATT. VII. 13-23.

True Following of Christ.

O LORD, Who in Thy Holy Word hast said, "If any man will come unto Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me;" and that "through much tribulation we must enter into the kingdom of God:" Grant that we may not live after the flesh and so die, but through the Spirit may so mortify the deeds of the body that we may live. Keep us from the wiles of those who would spoil us through philosophy and vain deceit, after the traditions of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. Give us grace so to hold the true faith in uprightness that we may bring forth the fruits of a holy life; and, being grafted into the true Vine, may shew the products of the Spirit in love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, meekness, temperance, being made free from sin and become servants unto God. May we be doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving our own selves. Thou art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, and canst not look upon impurity; teach us therefore to examine ourselves whether we be indeed in the true faith, and to prove ourselves by the test of a holy and godly life; so that when Thou comest to judge the world, and to give to every man according to his work, we may be found to bear the seal of Thy true disciples, and so to be known as Thine, our Saviour and our Lord. Amen.

* Gos. 8th Sunday after Trinity.

DISCOURSE XIII.

S. MATT. X. 16-25.

Boldness in Christ's Service.

O LORD, Who art the portion of Thy people, grant us courage against the fear of man's persecution. Though, as Thy servants, we be hated of all men for Thy Name's sake, in Thee may be find deliverance, for "he that endureth to the end shall be saved." The race, though long, shall be finished, and the prize secured; our trials, though many, shall be crowned with glory. Grant us grace to work for Thee with holy Boldness; doing good in our day and generation, and extending Thy kingdom throughout the world. Suffer us not to repine at the pains and perils of our Christian warfare, remembering what contradiction of sinners, what desertion and scorn and shame Thou didst Thyself endure; the sufferings Thou didst bear for us, the Just for the unjust. Fashion us indeed as Thy disciples, that we may find our comfort in being made like unto Thee, when we suffer patiently, cheerfully, and thankfully the trials that await us. Let us never be disheartened, either by the fear of man, or by the pains and weariness and sorrow that await us in this life of trial. The more we have to bear, the more cheerfully let us suffer; the more to do for Thee, the more gladly strengthen us to work: ever reaching onward to that crown of life and bliss which Thou hast promised to them that love Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISCOURSE XIV.

S. MATT. X. 26-33.

True Christian Courage.

O GOD, Who wilt bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil: Suffer not Thy servants to be disheartened at the thought that no one sees their suffering, or gives credit to their patience and endurance. The stedfast perseverance of the faithful, and the shameful falling away of the wicked shall alike be brought to light at the last day. Strengthen us against all fears of loss or harm or trouble; for in Thy fear is strong confidence, and Thy children shall have a place of refuge. Our God Whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and Thou wilt deliver us from all our enemies; for "the angel of the Lord encompasseth round about all them that fear Him, and delivereth them." Grant us grace that we may ever be bold to confess with our mouth the Lord Jesus, even as He before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; that so our names may not be blotted from the Book of Life, but may be confessed in Heaven before the Father and before His angels. Give us the true Christian courage to resist the devil and to renounce the world; to speak in season the unwelcome truth; to have when needful undeserved rebuke, and in all things hold ourselves as soldiers of the Cross, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISCOURSE XV.

S. MATT. x. 34-42.

All things well lost for Christ.

O GOD, Who in Thy mercy hast given unto us by Thy dear Son the Gospel of peace; keep ever in our remembrance that friendship with the world is enmity with Thee, and that even as Thy disciples we may provoke the opposition of our dearest friends, for that all that will live godly in Christ Jesus must suffer persecution. Grant that we may count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord; that we may be ever ready to deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow Him. Make it our earnest endeavour and our hope that Christ may be magnified in our body, whether it be by life or by death, that so to us to live may be Christ, and to die be gain. Make us always ready to be offered when the time of our departure is at hand. Having fought a good fight, bring us to finish our course with joy, knowing that henceforth is laid up for us a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give us at that day, and not to us only, but unto all that love His appearing. Enlighten us that we may hold in reverent honour Thine ambassadors, and love and succour the weak, the guileless, the pure, and the young, as Babes in Christ, for His Name's sake. So shalt Thou supply all our need according to Thy riches in glory, by Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISCOURSE XVI.

*S. MATT. XI. 25-30.

The Cross to us the Power of God.

O FATHER, Lord of Heaven and earth, Who callest not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, but hast chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise, and the weak things of the world to confound the things that are mighty; and Who out of the mouths of babes and sucklings hast ordained strength: We thank Thee that unto us it is given to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven, and that the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, Who is the Image of God, has shined unto us. Make the preaching of the cross, which is to them that perish foolishness, be unto us the power of God. We know that the Son of God is come, and hath given unto us an understanding that we may know Him that is True, Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. O Saviour of the World, though weary and heavy laden with the burden of our sins, we come unto Thee for rest. Lead all of us that have been as sheep going astray to return unto the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls. Make us meek and lowly in heart. Bind Thy easy yoke and light burden upon us, that in keeping Thy Commandments we may abide in Thy love; that Thy joy may remain in us, and our joy may be full, through Thee, our Lord. Amen.

*Gos. S. Matthias.

DISCOURSE XVII.

S. MATT. XII. 31-37.

Idle and Blasphemous Words.

O LORD, Who dost assure us for our comfort that if we confess our sins Thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness: Keep us from such a wilful and obstinate resistance to the Work of the Holy Spirit as might lead us to ascribe that work to the devil. Guard us from crying down or blaspheming holy truths or holy persons. Leave us not to a reprobate mind, lest we do despite to the Spirit of Grace, and forfeit our eternal salvation. Renew in us the spirit of our mind, that we may put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness, bringing forth out of a good heart filled with Thy grace. Instruct our speech that it be always with grace, seasoned with salt, ministering grace to the hearers. Make our conversation to be holy, even such as must flow from holiness in the heart. Guard us all from idle thoughts and words and all offences of the lips, that we may ever speak with an aim to God's glory, and follow after those things wherewith we may edify one another. Put away from us all bitterness and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil-speaking, with all malice, that when Thou comest to judge the world our words may not condemn but justify Thy servants, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISCOURSE XVIII.

S. MATT. XII. 38-45.

Humble Faith and Perseverance.

GRANT, O Lord, that we be not of those who, except they see signs and wonders will not believe. Enough for us Thy holy Word, the evidence of prophecy and miracle which Thou hast revealed. Keep us ever in Thy holy Faith, that form of sound words which we have received from Thy Apostles, that we may believe in "God manifest in the flesh," in Whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, in Whom dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. Grant that we may never neglect opportunities of knowing Him, or fall away from grace given, lest we become all the more utterly victims of evil passions and of evil spirits, even of our adversary the devil, who, as a roaring lion walketh about seeking whom he may devour. Vouchsafe that we who have been once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift; who have been made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have received the good Word of God, and the powers of the world to come, may never so fall away that it shall become impossible to renew us again unto repentance. Fill our souls with Faith and Holiness, lest our last state be indeed worse than the first, but keep us ever Thine, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISCOURSE XIX.

S. MATT. XII. 46-50.

Our Brotherhood in Christ.

GRANT, O Lord, that we may ever count it our greatest privilege to belong to that blessed Family whereof Christ is the Head; to be in the number of those brethren whereof He is the Elder. And for this end keep in our minds that we must do more than "stand without desiring to speak with Him;" that we must wait on Him with prayer and earnest supplication that He will speak with us and to us, to our souls. Help us to do the brother's part, taking up always His cause as our own; forwarding any work in which His honour is concerned, and fearlessly confessing His Name before a sinful and scornful generation. Then shall we find in this life a relationship most fruitful in every good gift. Are we poor, we have a Brother Who can make us rich. Are we weak, He can make us strong, strong in faith and rich in grace. In our doubts, direct our eyes to Him for counsel; in our sorrow, for consolation; in our joy, discretion. O Father of Heaven, continue to us the true nobility of being sons of Thine, brethren of Christ; brethren who dwell together in unity of faith and love. Sons, who, though it doth not yet appear what we shall be, know that when He shall appear we shall be like Him as He is, through the same Jesus Christ. Amen.

DISCOURSE XX.

S. MATT. XIII. 1-9.

The Word Sown.

O GOD, Who hast given us a heart to perceive and eyes to see, and ears to hear the mysteries of Thy Kingdom: Grant that we may rejoice in the many opportunities we have offered us of hearing the Word of God. At home, in Church, in the public service, and in private devotion, make us ever to be as desirous to pray and to learn; as Christ was willing to teach, and Thou art willing to hear. Guide us to search for wisdom as for hid treasures, then shall we understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. Prepare our hearts that they may receive and cherish the seed of Thy Word. Grant that neither the sunshine of prosperity, nor the storm of affliction or persecution may destroy it ere it be sprung up; nor the cares of this world, nor the deceitfulness of riches choke it that it becometh unfruitful. Give us an understanding that we may know Him that is true, and be in Him that is true, even in Thy Son Jesus Christ. Fix our dearest delight in the law of the Lord, that we may walk worthy of the Lord unto all well-pleasing, being neither barren, nor unfruitful, but abundant in every good word and work, and increasing in the knowledge and love of God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISCOURSE XXI.

* S. MATT. XIII. 24-35.

Patience in Presence of Evil.

O GOD, Who hast planted us in this world by the hand of the Son of Man, as good seed, and children of the Kingdom: Grant that we may grow up in grace and in the fear of Thee; and that, by no fault of our own, from no want of pains, or diligence, or watchfulness, we may suffer any bad seed of vain religion, idolatry, heresy or schism, no corrupt will-worship, or spiritual ignorance, or spiritual pride, to over-run Thy Church. Prevent those who know Thee, the only God, and Jesus Christ Whom Thou hast sent, from becoming, by the indulgence of any wilful sin, the children of the wicked one. And when we see that evil is permitted for the sake of good, let us not despair or be provoked to hasty judgment, but in patience and long-suffering wait for the heavenly harvest, when the angels shall gather out of Christ's Kingdom all things that offend, and the righteous shall shine forth as the sun in the Kingdom of their Father. Enable us to seek for rest from this world's vanity and cares in that holy Church of which Christ is the Head; that Tree ever growing up of which He is the Root. And meantime do Thou move us as good leaven to spread abroad the love of Christ to all men, that the knowledge of the Lord may cover the earth as the waters cover the sea, through the same Jesus Christ. Amen.

* Gos. 5th Sunday after Epiphany.

DISCOURSE XXII.

* S. JOHN III. 16-21.

God's Love to the World.

O HEAVENLY FATHER, Who didst so love the world that Thou gavest Thine only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life: Grant us to feel the greatness of Thy love, Who so lovedst us; the breadth of that love, which loved the whole world; and the pricelessness of the sacrifice of Thine only-begotten Son, that the whole world through Him might be saved. Make us to remember for our warning that the world is self-condemned by not believing, and hasten ourselves to shew the fruit of our believing by doing the truth, and coming forward ourselves to the light, that our deeds may be made manifest that they are wrought in God. "The Lord knoweth them that are His;" Thou knowest the wheat of Thine own threshing-floor, and knowest the chaff. Thou knowest the corn, and knowest the tares. O Light of the world, teach us ever to love and live in Thee, and follow on to know and do the truth. Give us, O Lord, the true pleasure of well-doing. Make us to love the light rather than darkness; to believe aright in Thy blessed Son, and through Him not to be condemned, but saved for evermore. Amen.

* Gos. Monday in Whitsun Week.

DISCOURSE XXIII.

S. JOHN IV. 21-26.

Spiritual Worship.

O LORD, Thou knowest the hearts of Thy servants, and our inmost and most secret sins are not hid from Thee: We pray Thee therefore that Thou wouldest inform our faith, and work in us a true conviction of our grievous sinfulness in Thine all-pure and holy sight; that from Thee we may receive cleansing and forgiveness, and, being pardoned, raise our eyes to Thee and find in Thee all guidance and all truth. Even our worship needs Thy cleansing hand. Suffer us not to mix with our devotions earthly thoughts or unworthy conceptions of Him Whom we serve. "God is a Spirit," and seeth not only that which is without, but also that which is within. There, then, in our hearts, let us pay Thee honour; there pray as to Thee there hearing us; there give our thanks as Thou would have us; there believe as Thou hast revealed Thyself unto us. "In Spirit," not in mere vain profession; "In Spirit," not in mere lifeless form; and "in truth," not only with zeal, but with a faith that is correct; in the very method laid down for us in Thy Holy Scriptures, and after the order that has been handed to us by Thy Church, which is "the pillar and ground of truth." Thus make us to serve Thee, Lord; never too proud to learn; never too impatient to teach. Work in us while we confess our sins a deep conviction of our sinfulness, that thus we may approach Thy Throne in Spirit and in truth, true worshippers, such as the Father seeketh, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

DISCOURSE XXIV.

S. JOHN V. 20-25.

Unity in the True Faith.

O ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, Who hast given unto us Thy servants grace by the confession of a true faith to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the Divine majesty to worship the Unity: We beseech Thee that Thou wouldest keep us ever stedfast in this faith, neither confounding the persons nor dividing the substance. That, as we believe in God the Father Who hath made us, so may we believe in God the Son Who hath redeemed us, and in God the Holy Ghost Who maketh holy all the elect people of God—all uniting in every good work without distinction as one God, the Unity in Trinity, wherein none is afore or after other, none is greater or less than another, but the whole Three Persons are co-eternal together and co-equal. Grant that we may ever honour the Son even as we honour the Father which hath sent Him; that we may hear and love His Word, and so believe and obey that we may come to everlasting life, and not come into condemnation, but pass from the death our sins have deserved unto that life which He has purchased for us with His own most precious Blood. Open our hearts to that voice of the Son of God which is even now sounding in the world, that we may learn betimes, and follow on to know and love and live in Him, and so in Thee, for the sake of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISCOURSE XXV.

S. JOHN VI. 35-40.

Christ the Bread of Life.

O HEAVENLY FATHER, Who sendest the True Bread from Heaven, even Him that cometh down from Heaven, and giveth life unto the world: Give us, we beseech Thee, evermore this Bread. Grant us such a true and living faith, as, bringing us to Christ, and uniting us with Him, will find in Him every want and every wish fulfilled. Grant that coming each one severally to Him for salvation, we may be presented spotless with the whole body of Thy Church, and having been enrolled as members of Thy Family, we may never be cast away. We know that it is Thy good pleasure to give us the kingdom, and that Thou didst so love the world as to give Thine only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him might have everlasting life. Thou willest not that any should perish, nor will any perish who seek life in the Bread of Life. Reveal to us in Him the staff of our spiritual health, that when our soul is weak, through Christ it may be strong; when weary, it may through Him be refreshed; when empty, it may by Him be replenished. O God, grant us the heart and will to come, and do Thou move us unto coming. Keep us Thine by union with the life-giving Bread; that we may see the Son, and believe on Him, and have everlasting life, and be raised up at the last day, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISCOURSE XXVI.

S. JOHN X. 11-18.

Christ the Good Shepherd.

O THOU Who feedest Thy flock like a Shepherd, and gatherest Thy lambs with Thine Arm, and carriest them in Thy Bosom: Not only loving care and tender guidance dost Thou give, but even life itself to save Thy sheep. And Thine we are, for Thou hast purchased us at the cost of Thine own most precious Blood. Thine we are, for in order that we might be Thine, Thou didst lay down Thy life for us. This is the love which our Shepherd has had for us, what then should be the love we feel for Him! Lord! teach us how we ought most deeply to care for Jesus; how we ought to listen to His Voice, to follow Him, to walk in the ways that He has set before us, to know Him, to know Him for our Shepherd, and to know ourselves for the sheep of His pasture, nay, for the sheep of His one Fold. Guide us in the way of truth and unity, that we may hold the faith as it is in Jesus, and learn to be of one heart and of one soul, walking ever in the paths of peace and love and self-denying obedience. As Thou and the Father are One, even in such loving union may we know Thee and be known of Thee; yea, be known and confessed before the angels in Heaven, as those, who like Thee, have done as they received commandment from the Father; for Thy Name's sake. Amen.

DISCOURSE XXVII.

S. JOHN XII. 24-26.

Resurrection to Newness of Life.

O BLESSED JESUS, Son of Man, Who by Thy death for our salvation hast shewed forth Thy glory, for only by Thy precious Blood could we be saved; only by Thy dying for us are our sins washed out, or our souls justified in the sight of God: Grant that we may never rob Thee of this Thy glory, by indulging wilfully in those sins, from the due reward of which Thou hast died to save us. Help us, O Lord, by the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, to bring forth fruits meet for repentance, even the fruits of a holy and godly life. That as Thou dost rejoice to bear in abundance the fruit of our salvation, for the sake of which Thou didst yield up unto death that most precious of all seeds, Thy Holy Body, so we may count all things but loss, even this our life itself, compared with life eternal. Grant that having died with Thee in Baptism unto sin, we may henceforth live unto righteousness; and though in this world we be tried and suffer tribulation, may the trial of our faith work in us Hope and Patience, Trust and Love. Repeat for ever in our ears the gracious Voice from Heaven, that God in Thee would glorify His Name. For our sakes came this Voice, make it convince all Thy servants to the end of time that there is ever a power from on high close at hand to support us in all our trials, and to turn our cross of suffering into a crown of victory. Lord grant that when the seed of these mortal bodies be laid in the ground, there may spring from thence the glorious resurrection body, which shall reign with Thee in joy for ever, through Thy blessed Name. Amen.

DISCOURSE XXVIII.

S. JOHN XII. 44-50.

Belief in the Light of Christ.

O LORD JESU CHRIST, Who art come a Light into the World, that whosoever believeth on Thee should not abide in darkness: Grant unto us, Thy servants, the true light of faith, by which we may in Thee see Him that sent Thee, Who art the Brightness of His glory, and the express image of His Person. Remove far from us the condemnation that when Light is come into the world we should love darkness rather than light, because our deeds are evil. Make us rather to hear Thy words, and so believe that Thou art God in the Unity of the Father and the Holy Ghost. Teach us, as Sons of God in Thee, to acknowledge the Father as the source of all Truth and Wisdom; and, as Thou wert obedient, "being inferior to the Father as touching Thy manhood," help us as men in all things to be obedient to our Father in Heaven. Prepare our hearts to receive and obey that holy commandment which was ordained unto life everlasting, though, through the sinfulness and weakness of man's fallen nature, it was "found to be unto death." But Thou hast won for us new gifts of grace, that the righteousness of the law may be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Make us, O Lord, to love the praise of God more than the praise of men; so that, being justified by the Atonement, sanctified by the Holy Spirit, and washed from our transgressions by the Blood of the Cross, we may find that God's commandment is exceeding good. Amen.

DISCOURSE XXIX.

*S. JOHN XIII. 12-17.

Washing the Disciples' Feet.

O LORD, Who in Thy mercy hast ordained one Baptism, "the laver of regeneration," for the remission of sins; a washing that needs no repetition, and yet in washing Thy disciples' feet didst teach us, that though we have been "made clean every whit," we still need perpetual cleansing from the dust of our daily failings: Grant to us the daily renewal of the Holy Ghost, that as there must be for us a continual walking in the miry pathways of the world, we may be prepared with pure feet to enter Heaven. Permit us not to rest too much in the outward partaking of a holy rite, but cleanse our hearts by Thy continual grace, lest after all we still be castaways, like Judas. Give us grace that we may follow Thy humility, and not, for that we are Thy servants, scorn even the lowliest services for all whom Thou hast loved; that we may learn of Thee, Who art meek and lowly in heart. Grant us the true blessedness of doing good, and ministering to the necessities of others, because there is no pleasure on earth so great as doing thus Thy Will and after Thy example. Happy shall we be, thus proving ourselves to be Thine indeed, for we know that whatsoever here we do unto one of the least of these Thy brethren, Thou wilt count it as done even to Thyself, our Lord and King. Amen.

* M. L. 2 Thursday before Easter.

DISCOURSE XXX.

* S. JOHN XIV. 1-3, 11-14.

Comfort through Prayer.

O LORD of all love and comfort, raise our hearts, we beseech Thee, from the sorrows that surround us. When we see Thee forsaken and betrayed, Thy Church in peril and despised, suffer not our faith to fail, nor yet our heart to be troubled, but grant us grace to look beyond the waves that threaten to overwhelm us to the eternal home, where Thou hast gone before to prepare for all Thy faithful in their ranks and orders fitting mansions in the Heavens, where we may rest with Thee, and praise Thee with glad songs of joy for ever. Thou art the Way, the Truth, and the Life; by Thee we may approach the Father's love; in Thee behold the Father's Works, Who doeth all. Send us Thy grace, that we may do Thy Will. Lord of all power and might, Who sittest at the right hand of God, even to us Thy humble servants, and in answer to our faithful prayers, Thou wilt send down Thy gifts and powers of grace. Through Thee, our Great High Priest, we offer to the Father all our prayers; pleading Thy love and Thy atonement, speaking in Thy Name, and asking all we want through Thee. Grant that we may ask in faith and confidence, nothing doubting, that the Father may be glorified, and the triumphs of Thy Kingdom be set forth in us, for Thy Name's sake. Amen.

* Gos. S. Philip and S. James.

DISCOURSE XXXI.

* S. JOHN XIV. 15-26.

The Comfort of the Spirit.

O LORD JESU CHRIST, Who didst die for all, that we should not henceforth live unto ourselves, but unto Him which died for us and rose again: Constrain us by Thy wonderful love, that in keeping Thy commandments we may abide in Thy love, even as Thou hast kept Thy Father's commandments, and dost abide in His love, that we may show ourselves Thy friends by doing whatsoever Thou commandest us. For us it was expedient that Thou shouldest go away, that the Comforter might be sent unto us from the Father, to abide with us for ever; so continue now, O Lord, to help our infirmities, and guide us into all truth, and fill us with all joy and peace in believing. Make us to remember always that we are Temples of God, because He hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba, Father." As Thy dear children, grant that He may dwell within us ever, and be our Comforter through all this world of trial, until Thou comest in the clouds of Heaven, when we shall see and know Thee as Thou knowest us, and shall appear with Thee in glory. Help us, Lord, to keep Thy Word, that the love of God may be perfected in us, and our fellowship kept up with Thee. Renew in us Thy Holy Spirit, that He may teach us all things, and bring all things to our remembrance, whatsoever Thou hast said, for Thy Name's sake. Amen.

* Gos. Whit-Sunday.

DISCOURSE XXXII.

* S. JOHN XIV. 27-31.

Peace in Christ.

O LORD, Thou Dayspring from on high, Who hast visited us to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace: Grant us to enjoy in full possession that precious legacy of peace which Thou hast left to Thy Church. Give that "peace of God which passeth all understanding" to keep our hearts and minds, even in the midst of all troubles and tribulations, which in this world of trial must ever beset us. By Thy victory over sin and death Thou hast conquered the enemies that strive against our salvation; take from them henceforth all power to prevail against us or to trouble our hearts; and give us the confidence of earnest faith to rejoice evermore in Thee, Who hast returned to Thy throne of glory, there to reign over Thy Church for ever, and to be continually the sure Defender and Protector of Thy people. Thou art our Helper and Guardian, we will not fear what man can do unto us. To Thy Father Thou hast ascended, Who is our Father also; to Thy God and our God. Though a Son didst Thou learn obedience by the things Thou didst suffer: Grant that as Thou didst humble Thyself and become obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross, even so we Thy redeemed may show that we also love the Father, and abide in His Love, by keeping His commandments, for Thy Name's sake. Amen.

* Gos. Whit-Sunday.

DISCOURSE XXXIII.

* S. JOHN XV. 1-11.

Branches of the Vine.

O LORD GOD OF HOSTS, Who didst bring Thy people Israel as a vine out of Egypt, and, casting out the heathen, didst plant them into Thine own vineyard; we are Thine own husbandry, grafted into the true Vine, Jesus Christ. Grant that we may henceforth be no more children, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, Which is the Head, even Christ—from Whom the whole Body, fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working of every part, maketh increase of the Body, Thy Church, unto the edifying of itself in love. As living branches of the Vine, give us ever from our parent stem that flow of life which He bestows from His very Blood, making us one with Him in the mystical union of His Holy Sacrament; that thus we may continue fruitful in every good word and work. Prune us even by Thy chastening Hand, if so we may become more fruitful, that we may glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience, and patience experience, and experience hope. Cherish within us by Thy grace the fruits of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, that so we may be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

* Gos. S. Mark.

DISCOURSE XXXIV.

* S. JOHN XV. 12-17.

Friendship of Christ.

O LORD JESUS, Who hast given to Thy Church a new commandment that we should love one another, even as Thou hast loved us, and Thy love to us is thus commended in that while we were yet sinners Thou didst die for us: Grant us Thy grace that we may so perfectly imitate Thy love that we may be ready, even if need be, to lay down our lives for the brethren. Teach us to love Thee truly, and faithfully to keep Thy words; that so we may be counted in the number of Thy friends. And though at times we fail, even as Thy Apostles who forsook Thee at Thy betrayal, and one denied Thee thrice, make their falls tend to our comfort, for if we but strive on to love and obey, still wilt Thou call us friends, and help us as a Friend, a Friend that sticketh closer than a brother. Not for any merit of our own didst Thou, O God, choose us to Thyself to be Thy special people, but because Thou lovedst us: For that dear love's sake keep us Thine for ever, continuing stedfastly in the Apostle's doctrine and fellowship, and in the breaking of the Bread, and in prayers; in the diligent use of the Sacraments and ordinances of Thy Church, assured that whatsoever we shall ask in prayer believing we shall receive. Thy workmanship we are, O God, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, grant us grace that we may ever walk in them and glorify Thy Name, through the same Jesus Christ. Amen.

* Gos. S. Barnabas.

DISCOURSE XXXV.

* S. JOHN XV. 18-27.

Enmity of the World.

O GOD, our Heavenly Father, Who hast bestowed such manner of love upon us that we should be called the Sons of God: Filled with the glory of this high privilege, with Christ, Thy Son, our very Brother, grant that we may never so despise our heavenly heritage, that we scorn this high nobility, or fear in anywise the hate or malice of the world that knows Thee not. We know that those who love Thee, and are found in likeness of Thy blessed Son, can not be loved by those who hated Him; with Him then be our portion and in Him our strength. Thou hast chosen us out of the world, therefore shall the world and servants of the devil hate us, for we are Thy soldiers. Enable us by Thy grace and in Thy strength to fight manfully against sin, the world, and the devil, and to overcome as Jesus overcame. Keep before us in our life-long warfare the cheering thoughts of Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest we be wearied and faint in our minds. Hard as our struggle may be, we have not yet resisted unto blood, striving as He did against sin. Direct our eyes to Him, the Author and Finisher of our faith, Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the Cross, despising the shame, and is now set down on the right hand of the throne of God. Amen.

* Gos. S. Simon and S. Jude.

DISCOURSE XXXVI.

S. JOHN XVII. 1-10.

Christ's Prayer for His Disciples.

O GOD, the Father, of Heaven, to Whom as He approached the last hour of awful agony, the hour also filled for Him and us with triumph and glory, Jesus lifted up His eyes and prayed for His disciples: Grant to us that we may ever follow Him as true disciples, yea, as those for whom He died. Thou hast given all things into His Hand, even power over all flesh ; our souls and bodies He has bought, for to this end He both died and rose and revived, that we might be His : O Father, grant that we whom Thou hast given to Him may be in no wise cast out. We know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding that we may know Him that is true : this is the God and eternal life. Grant that as His followers our meat may be to do Thy will, and to keep Thy commandments, and abide in Thy love, even as He kept His Father's commandments and abides in Thy love. Keep us holy and without blame before Thee Increase our knowledge, strengthen our faith in Him Who is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing that He ever liveth to make intercession for them. Give to us His sheep that we may hear His Voice and follow Him, and He may know us, and give to us eternal life ; so shall we never perish, nor any be able to pluck us out of His hand, through the same Jesus Christ. Amen.

DISCOURSE XXXVII.

S. JOHN XVII. 11-17.

Our Preservation in Unity and Truth.

O GOD of Patience and Consolation, grant us to be likeminded one towards another, according to Christ Jesus, that we may with one mind and one mouth glorify Thee as God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who, having loved His own who were in the world, loved them unto the end, and prayed that we might all be one, as He is in the Father. Grant to us, His disciples, that perfect union of heart and mind which may be compared to that bond of unity by which the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost are joined in one Godhead. Guard us from daring to despise or undervalue that unity which was thus the subject of His earnest intercessions. Make us all to speak the same thing, that there be no divisions among us, but that we be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. In that spirit of loving and intimate union strengthen us to strive against the flesh, the world, and the devil, that we may have His joy fulfilled in ourselves. And though it may be blessed to depart and be with Christ, to be spared the struggle with the world, and rescued from the peril, and taken away from the evil to come; support us in the greater blessedness of those who stay behind to fight the Lord's battle, and win through Him the victory. Furnish us unto all good works, that we may know the Truth, the Truth that makes us free, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISCOURSE XXXVIII.

S. JOHN XVII. 18-23.

The Glory of Believers.

O GOD, Who didst send Thy Son into the world to preach good tidings unto the meek, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound, to comfort all that mourn: Continue to us in the ministry of Thy Church that same blessed Gospel of peace and reconciliation. Through the offering of the Body of Jesus Christ Thou hast admitted us into Thy Church, and we are called to be saints: keep us in that holy calling, and sanctify us through Thy truth, that so, though many members, we may be one Body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Hold us, we beseech Thee, to a stedfast continuance in the Apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in the breaking of the bread, and in prayers—that, receiving in humble faith the Bread of Life, with gladness and singleness of heart, we may have our conversation honest among the Gentiles; that whereas they speak against us as evil-doers, they may, by our good works which they shall behold, be brought to glorify God in the day of their visitation. Strengthen and encourage our endeavours to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace, that we all, beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, may be changed into the same Image from glory to glory; that when He shall appear we may be like Him, through the same Jesus Christ. Amen.

DISCOURSE XXXIX.

S. JOHN XVII. 24-26.

Union with God and Christ.

O HEAVENLY FATHER, Whose blessed Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, has gone to the Heaven wherein Thou dwellest to prepare a place for us, that where He is there we may be also: Grant that we whom Thou hast given Him, may be with Him where He is, that we may behold His glory. Make us to serve and follow Him, that where He is there may we, His servants, be. O righteous Father, teach us to know Thee, and that we may retain Thee in our knowledge, so that Thou give us not over to a reprobate mind, which loveth darkness rather than the light, because our deeds are evil. Even so, Father, wilt Thou love us, because we have loved Him, and have believed that He came out from God. Shed abroad in our hearts Thy love by the Holy Ghost, that Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith; that we, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth and length and depth and height, and to know the love of Christ which passeth human knowledge, that we may be filled with all the fulness of God. And though, through clouds of ignorance and sin we catch but glimpses of surpassing glory, yet do Thou help us in faith and patience to wait for the Light Himself to shew us glory in perfection. While He prays for us in Heaven, stablish in our hearts His love on earth, for the sake of the same Jesus Christ. Amen.

DISCOURSE XL.

S. LUKE XXIV. 44-48.

Triumph of the Gospel.

O GOD, Whose nature knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God, open Thou our eyes and our hearts, that we may behold wondrous things out of Thy law. Give us understanding that we may know those words which Jesus spake unto us while He was yet with us, and may perceive the fulfilment of all those things which were written in the law of Moses and in the Prophets and in the Psalms concerning Him. Write in our hearts the truth of Thy Holy Scriptures, that we may see and love the Scheme of that Salvation which Jesus Christ wrought for us, and know how it was needful that He should suffer for us men and for our salvation, and rise the third day from the dead. Bless that Gospel of good news which through Thy Church is spread throughout the world, that all the ends of the earth may remember and turn unto the Lord, and all the kindreds of the nations may fall down and worship before Thee. Establish the mountain of Thy House, and exalt it above all hills, that all nations may flow unto it, and many people go and say, "Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the House of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths." Grant to us that true repentance to which is given remission of sins, the grace of pardon, and life everlasting, through Him Whom Thou hast exalted with Thy right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

IV. THE PARABLES.

IV.—THE PARABLES.

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THE SOWER.

* S. LUKE VIII. 5-8, and 11-15.

O GOD, Who by Thy blessed Son, and by His servants the ministers of Thy Holy Church, dost sow in our hearts the Word of the Kingdom of Heaven, the message of the Gospel of Salvation; and forasmuch as the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: Create within us clean hearts, and renew a right spirit within us, that Thy good seed may fall into good ground, and take root, and spring upward, and bring forth fruit abundantly. Remove from us all hardness of heart and obstinacy of understanding, that the good seed be not caught away by the devil, or the passing evil thoughts which drive before them the remembrance of the Word. Suffer not the god of this world to blind our minds, but make us to understand the fear of the Lord and the knowledge of God. Break up our shallow hearts, that the seed may sink therein, and we be rooted and grounded in love, nourished and refreshed continually with the dew of Thy grace; that when mockery or scoffing or persecution ariseth because of the Word, we may not be offended, but continue in patience and confidence to do the Will of God. Cleanse out from our hearts all roots and weeds of evil cares and pleasures and lusts, lest they spring up and choke the Word. Enable us to lay aside all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and to receive with meekness that Gospel which is able to save our souls; being doers of the Word, not hearers only, deceiving our own selves. Make our delight to be in the Law of the Lord, that we may be like trees planted by the waterside, bringing forth our fruit in due season, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* Gos. Sexagesima

THE TARES.

* S. MATT. XIII. 24-30, and 36-43.

O GOD, Who in the wilderness of this world hast planted a fruitful field, in which, for man's sake, by the hand of the Son of Man Thou hast sown the good seed of the children of the Kingdom of Heaven: We thank Thee that Thou hast called us to this state of salvation, and hast made us members of this Holy Body, Thy Church. Keep us, we beseech Thee, in the same true and living fellowship with Christ, and in the constant participation of His sanctifying Spirit. Continue us not only in the Church but of it; not only pressing upon Christ as the thronging multitude, but touching Him as the believing woman. We know, O Lord, that where Thy Church is planted, there the enemy of our salvation is ever busy secretly, and, alas! successfully, through our weakness, scattering seeds of evil and roots of bitterness: keep us that we change not from the likeness in which we were planted to the likeness of the devil. Suffer us not to be led away by those false teachers who privily bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, seeking to overthrow our faith, and wresting Thy Holy Scriptures to their own destruction. Let not our hearts be grieved or discouraged that the seed of the evil one should seem to prosper even in Thy Church, but grant us faith to look to the great harvest, when out of Thy Kingdom shall be gathered all things that offend, and they which do iniquity; when the Church militant shall become the Church triumphant, and all who have been faithful to Thee in the midst of a wicked and unbelieving world, shall be presented unto Thee a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle or any *such thing,* through Jesus Christ. Amen.

* Gos. 5th Sunday after Epiphany.

THE MUSTARD SEED.

S. MATT. XIII. 31, 32.

O GOD, Who hast sown in Thy field, the Church, the Seed of the Gospel, even the Body of Jesus, which fell into the ground and seemed to die, and abide for awhile alone, but afterwards sprang up and grew into a mighty tree, spreading abroad unto all nations and countries, until we ourselves have found a spiritual house under its protecting branches: Grant that we may grow up as lively and fruitful members of that tree, into which by Thy grace we have been grafted. Humble and of small account in the eyes of men were the beginnings of Thy Church, scorned and despised even as He was despised and rejected of men, yet fostered by Thy grace, and nourished by the blood of the saints, to how great a growth hath it attained! Few and feeble even yet among the millions of the nations seem Thy chosen people, but within us Thou hast planted the germ of life eternal, which shall grow until its branches reach the heavens. So increase Thy Kingdom in our hearts, that from the small seed of Thy Word may spring up the full growth of all Christian graces. Mingle the Word preached with faith in us and all who hear it, that as we have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so we may walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the faith we have been taught. Add to our faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance, and to temperance patience, and to patience godliness, and to godliness brotherly-kindness, and to brotherly-kindness charity; that so we may rejoice when the kingdoms of this world are become the Kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ, and He shall reign for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LEAVEN

S. LUKE XIII. 20, 21.

O GOD, Who, when the fallen world was sinking to corruption and decay beneath the burden of man's transgression, didst place within it the leaven of Thy love in Jesus Christ: Grant that through that life-giving Word, dwelling in Thy Church, the whole mass may yet be raised to life and renovation. Though He had no form, nor comeliness, nor beauty, that when men saw Him they should desire Him, still by His knowledge did Thy righteous servant justify many. From Him, the Bread of Life, did Thy apostles receive communication of His Life and Spirit, and they too, poor and unlearned though they were, became the salt of the earth, the leaven of the world. To us communicate, O Lord, that same new power from above, that we, Thy servants, in our day and generation, may spread Thy Kingdom and the influence of Thy blessed Gospel to all around. Suffer not Thy Word of Life to cease its effectual working in our hearts till it has brought us, body and soul and spirit, into an entire obedience to Thy Will, sanctifying us wholly, that we may be altogether a new creation in Christ Jesus. Thou hast born us anew in the laver of regeneration, renew and increase within us constantly the purifying power of Thy Holy Spirit. Strengthen and assist us by Thy grace, that we as members of Thy Son Jesus Christ may ever work on stedfastly for the glory of Thy Church, looking forward to that blessed day when the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. Amen.

THE HID TREASURE.

S. MATT. XIII. 44.

O GOD, Who in Thy Word and in Thy Church hast placed a Treasure that exceeds in richness all things beside: Suffer us not to be of those in whom the god of this world hath blinded the eyes of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious Gospel of Thy Son Jesus Christ should shine unto them. Lead us ever on to follow Him Who is the Light of the world, that we walk not any more in darkness, but may have the light of life. Planted in Thy Holy Church, surrounded by all means of grace, it may be still that Thy Gospel is hid to us, Lord, lighten our eyes that we may see the blessed things of Thy law. Bless to our souls the ministry of Thy Word, that as Nathaniel found Jesus by the leading of Philip, we may find and know Him also. Make us diligent in all deeds of love and kindness, that in doing Thy works we may know of Thy doctrine, even as the woman of Sychar, at the well with Jesus, drew her first draught of the living waters of salvation. Open to our minds the Holy Scriptures, that in them we may perceive the hidden mystery of the knowledge of Christ. Bring all men, we beseech Thee, to the way of truth and salvation, that they may know that in Thy Church there is an untold Treasure, which may make it henceforth precious in Thy sight. Teach them that through the golden pipes of the sanctuary is the golden oil conveyed. Draw them with us into Thy one Fold, that there they may find and make their own the Saviour, Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.

THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE.

S. MATT. XIII. 45, 46.

O LORD, Whose merchandize of heavenly wisdom is better than the merchandize of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold; more precious than rubies, and all the things we can desire are not to be compared unto her: Grant us grace that we may fix our hearts on that heavenly treasure, and seek diligently till we find it. Leave us not, O Lord, to die in our sins and darkness, nor those that seek Thee to be confounded, but enlighten our souls to see the beauty and the richness and the glory of Thy love in Jesus Christ; that so we may be enabled to lay aside the vain and foolish things of this world, and seek not our own will, nor our own profit and glory, but Thy Will, and the salvation of Jesus Christ. Take from us all foolish craving after those things which profit not, pleasures of this life, riches of earth, high places of the world. Teach us to value even noble ambitions, and the excellency of knowledge, and the culture of the beautiful, as but poor things in comparison with the Pearl of greatest price which Thou hast promised to the faithful seeker. Detach our thoughts and affections from those many things that else would trouble us, that we may find that one thing needful which Mary found at the Feet of Thy Son Jesus. Give us to understand Thy Holy Fear, and the true knowledge of Thee and everlasting life, that we may cast away those fragments of the Truth that but misled us with their glitter, and seize upon Thy Truth itself, the one Faith, and the one Truth, which is One even as Thou art One. Lord, Thou hast made us for Thyself, and our heart is disquieted until it resteth in Thee. Grant us this rest, O Heavenly *Father, for* Jesus Christ His sake. Amen.

THE DRAW NET.

S. MATT. XIII. 47-50.

O GOD, Who in the broad sea of this world hast by the hands of Thy servants cast the great net of the Church, to gather thence of every kindred and tongue and people and nation, good and bad: Grant us thankful hearts for this Thy great love, which has included us within the limits of Thy Kingdom. We know that even into the ark were admitted both unclean and clean; and as among the twelve was found one traitor, so to the bosom of Thy Church both good and bad are drawn: teach us, therefore, to wait in patience and trustful confidence until the end shall come, nor fret against the presence of ungodly members. Keep us Thy true servants, that we fall not from the faith, nor fail to make our calling and election sure, nor grudge that to all the Gospel should be preached. And as Thy people of old did all drink the same spiritual drink, for they drank of that Spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ; but with many of them Thou wert not well-pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness: keep us from presuming that because we are outwardly members of Thy Church we cannot fall away from grace. Give us Wisdom to follow the teaching we profess to love, and to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called, that we bring no dishonour to Thy Holy Church. Keep us Thine for ever, O Lord, that when the number of Thine elect is accomplished, and the Net is drawn to shore, Thy angels may assign us, sanctified and meet for the Master's use, to those heavenly mansions where the Lord, Who knoweth them that are His, has prepared a place of rest and glory. Grant these our prayers for Jesus Christ His sake. Amen.

THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT.

* S. MATT. XVIII. 23-35.

O LORD, our Heavenly Father, Whose servants we are and Who hast given us under the Gospel of Christ a new law of love, that we should forgive others even as Thou for Christ's sake hast forgiven us: So prepare us, we beseech Thee, against the hour when we must give account to Thee of all our debts, that we forfeit not Thy forgiveness by our unforgiveness. As Thou didst summon David by the word of Nathan the prophet, and the Ninevites by the preaching of Jonah, and the Jews by John the Baptist, so by the ministry of Thy Gospel dost Thou summon us, setting our sins before our face, awaking our sleeping conscience, bringing us into adversities and perils of death. Thus dost Thou in mercy make us to possess our iniquities, and show to us their exceeding greatness, which only Thine eternal love in Christ can clear away. Forgive us freely for His sake, for we can pay no whit, nor ever make good the shortcomings of the past. Work within us a sincere conviction of our unworthiness, and make our scarlet white as snow. Permit us not to go out of Thy presence without the sense of our great sin and Thy free forgiveness, nor to be extreme in judging others while we are slack to judge ourselves. Teach us to be gentle, and shew meekness unto all, as knowing "we ourselves were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures." And as we have been forgiven through the righteousness of Christ, so make us to forgive each other, through the same, our Saviour. Amen.

* Gos. 22nd Sunday after Trinity.

THE LABOURERS IN THE VINEYARD.

* S. MATT. XX. 1-16.

O LORD, Who hast called us out of the market-place of the world, and by Baptism hast made us Thy servants and labourers in the vineyard of Thy Church: Grant that we despise not the excellency of Thy goodness, nor undervalue the glorious privileges Thou hast conferred upon us, that we should be called the sons of God in Christ. Keep us ever mindful of our own unworthiness, lest we be blinded to our faults and shortcomings, or scorn the services of others, who have not our privileges. Guard us from all vain-glory and foolish boasting, from all presumption on our own merits, for when we have done all we are unprofitable servants; "by grace we are saved, through faith, and not of ourselves, it is the gift of God." It is Thou, O Father, Who hast sought us out, and chosen us, and we are Thine in Christ. Nor art Thou unrighteous to forget our work and labour of love, for Thou hast promised that every act and deed of faith and charity shall be rewarded for the sake of Christ. He is our exceeding great reward. In Him we have all, and no one can have more. Lord grant that we may labour honestly, diligently, and without grudging. We have been called long, guide us that we delay not to obey, nor put off our repentance and our work, lest we that seemed first may come to be the last. Strengthen us to labour while it is day, for the night cometh when no man can work; always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as we know that our labour shall not be in vain in the Lord, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

* Gos. Septuagesima.

THE TWO SONS.

S. MATT. XXI. 28-32.

O HEAVENLY FATHER, Who hast made us Thy sons by adoption and grace, and inheritors of the Kingdom of Heaven: Keep us ever faithful and obedient sons of Thy family, that we may not fall short of our profession, and forfeit the privileges, of our holy calling in Christ Jesus. Thou hast chosen us out of the world, and we have promised to do Thy Will. Thou hast given us the grace of Thy Holy Spirit in our Baptism, and on every renewal of our vows hast bestowed upon us also more of strength and power to do Thy Will, and obey Thy commands: grant that we be not as the self-righteous Pharisees and exalt ourselves; or be content with saying, "Lord, Lord," while we do not Thy Will; or make our boast of God, that we know His Will, and approve the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law, and yet obey not the truth. Give to us true humility, a meek and contrite heart, and a proper sense of our own unworthiness in Thy sight, that we trust not in ourselves that we are righteous, and despire others, but come to Thee in earnest repentance and stedfast purposes of amendment, so wilt Thou be merciful to us sinners. Guard us from the guilt of drawing nigh to Thee with our mouth, and knowing Thee with our lips, while our heart is far from Thee; but shed abroad in our hearts Thy love by the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of Thy Son, by whom we call Thee "Abba, Father," that as faithful children we may do Thy Will, through the same Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE WICKED HUSBANDMEN.

S. MATT. XXI. 33-44.

O THOU, Who hast established Thy holy kingdom from everlasting to everlasting, and at divers times hast placed therein, as in a vineyard, divers nations for its cultivation, and the perfect rendering of its holy fruits: Grant us Thy grace that we may learn and understand the lessons of Thy dealings with Thy people. In Thy divine providence, and of Thy great mercy, Thou hast placed us in that vineyard, as of old were placed Thine ancient people Israel. Thou hast fenced it about for us with the terrors of the Law, the blessings of the Gospel, and furnished it with all things necessary for life and godliness, and for fruitfulness in every good and holy work. Vouchsafe, we beseech Thee, to keep us faithful to our trust, that with constant watchful care and tendance we may bring forth abundantly the fruits of holiness. Teach us to value aright the privileges of Thy Holy Church and Sacraments, and the ministry of Thy word; lest having escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we be again entangled therein and overcome, and crucify to ourselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame, and so be cast out and lose our inheritance. O Lord of all patience and long-suffering, permit us not to fall back into perdition, but help us that we may give all diligence to make our calling and election sure, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE MARRIAGE OF THE KING'S SON.

* S. MATT. XXII. 1-14.

O LORD JESU CHRIST, the only-begotten Son of God, Who hast loved the Church, and given Thyself for it, that Thou mightest sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water and the Word, that Thou mightest present it to Thyself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish: Grant that as we have been made members of Thy Body, and have been espoused to Thee, we may be at last admitted to that marriage feast in Heaven, to which Thou hast invited us. Oft hast Thou called us, by Thy Prophets and Apostles, by the messengers of Thy Church, and by the many providences of our lives, to be partakers of the blessings of the Gospel. Alas! how often have we made light of Thy gracious invitations! Lord, have mercy, lest the fulness of this world hide our emptiness of Heavenly things. Awake in us the divine hunger and thirst after righteousness, that we may be filled. Take from us all unworthiness, and everything that defileth, lest we be found unfit for Heaven, when Thou, Who readest the secrets of all hearts shall come to scrutinize the guests. Grant us that living faith which comes to Thee for pardon and salvation, which is accepted by God's mercy to our justification. Fit us for that Heavenly Feast, by that righteousness which the Father's mercies, Thine own merits, and the Spirit's power, can alone work in and for us, that so from many called, we may be among the chosen few, for Thy blessed Name's sake. Amen.

* Gos. 20th Sunday after Trinity.

THE TEN VIRGINS.

S. MATTHEW XXV. 1-13.

O LORD, our Judge, Who hast fixed a day and an hour of which no man knoweth, in which Thou wilt come to judge the world, to separate the wise from the unwise, the sheep from the goats, to open for Thy faithful and true the door of the Marriage Feast of Heaven: Give us grace that we may take constant heed to ourselves, lest at any time our hearts be over-charged with surfeiting, or drunkenness, or cares of this life, and so that day come upon us unawares. We give thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; Who hath delivered us from the powers of darkness, and hath translated us into Thy Kingdom. But suffer us not, O Lord, to presume upon our holy calling and our Christian profession, nor to sleep as do others, for now is it high time to awake out of sleep, and now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand, help us therefore to cast off the works of darkness and put upon us the armour of light, to walk honestly as in the day; and day by day treasure up Thy grace in our hearts, so that, whilst Thou still delayest Thy coming, and we may all slumber in death, we yet may sleep in Thee, and awake at the resurrection morning to meet Thee with joy and gladness. Revive the work of God in our souls while yet there is time, and enable us to bring forth abundantly those fruits of holiness by which we shall be known as Thine, and so an entrance may be ministered unto us abundantly to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, for Thy Name's sake. Amen.

THE TALENTS.

S. MATT. XXV. 14-30.

O GOD, Who hast given some, Apostles; and some, Prophets; and some, Evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the Saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ; dividing to each of us Thy Stewards severally as Thou wilt: Grant that, having these gifts according to the grace that is given to us, we may profit withal, and be found faithful. If our Lord seem to delay His coming, suffer us not to be idly waiting but earnestly working for Him, who shall reward every man as His work shall be. As Thou didst summon Moses from his sheepfolds, and Amos from his herds, and didst bless the word of a simple maid to Naaman the Syrian, so to each one of us however humble Thou hast given talents more or fewer to be consecrated to Thy service and accepted by Thee. According to the measure of our divers gifts, endue us with Thy Holy Spirit that we may be diligent and faithful in our office and ministry; faithful in little as well as in much; not deceiving ourselves and hiding our talent, shrinking from the labour meted out for us, but with humble earnestness doing with our might whatever Thou settest our hands to do. Teach us to believe in Thy forgiving love, in Thy acceptance of our work with all its faults, if done out of a true heart, and with sincere desire to please Thee. We beseech Thee that Thy grace may abound in us, that we may be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord, but may so live that at the last day we may be found acceptable in Thy sight, and receive Thy welcome greeting, "Come, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord," *for Jesus* Christ His sake. Amen.

THE SEED GROWING SECRETLY.

S. MARK IV. 26-29.

O LORD JESU CHRIST, Who at Thy first coming in the flesh didst sow the Word of Thy kingdom in the world, and didst plant Thy Church therein, and then didst seem to withdraw Thyself, the Heavens receiving Thee till the time of the consummation of all things: Grant us patience that we be not over-anxious for the growing seed, or for the final issue of Thy grace within our hearts. We know that silent and unseen Thy Holy Seed springs up, first the blade, then the ear, and then the full corn in the ear. Vouchsafe, we beseech Thee, the daily renewal of Thy Holy Spirit and the watchful care of Thy good providence, that it may have due nourishment. Many a time arises from our hearts the faithless cry, "O that Thou wouldest rend the Heavens and come down," as though the time had come, and the gates of hell should now prevail against Thy Church; and yet Thou dost forbear. Lord teach us to perceive Thy never-failing love, for Thou dost never slumber, but through storm and sunshine grows Thy seed by night and day, increasing secretly, but still with Thine unfailing power, until it brings to fulness and maturity its wonted fruit. Give us faith to look to that great day when the harvest of the Church shall be ripe for gathering, and the number of Thine elect accomplished, when Thou shalt appear a second time unto salvation, and gather in Thy sheaves into the Heavenly garner, for Thy Name's sake. Amen.

THE TWO DEBTORS.

S. LUKE VII. 41-50.

O LORD, Who in Thy divine mercy didst say unto the woman that was a sinner, and yet approached Thee weeping for her sins, kissing Thy feet, and wiping them with the hair of her head, "Thy sins are forgiven:" Grant that as we have yielded our members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity, even so now we may yield our members servants to righteousness unto holiness. Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts; from Thee is nothing hid, but all our sins are manifest to Thee, and there is none that doeth good, no, not one, for all have sinned and come short of Thy glory: Work in our hearts a deep conviction of our sins, that we may know how vile we are in Thy all-holy sight, degraded under the curse of Thy broken laws, and having the sentence of death in ourselves. Our sins are many, but many are Thy mercies; we have sinned much, but great is Thy forgiveness. Teach us to love Thee more, the more we feel our sinfulness and Thy abounding love. Set us free from this our hateful bondage, O Thou merciful Redeemer, bid us live, and bring us to the glorious liberty of the children of God. Our sins have separated us from Thy love, and yet we cannot do without Thy love; O cleanse away our grievous sins; forgive us all our many offences; put away our transgressions far from us, that so we may be free to know and love Thee better. Where sin hath abounded there bid grace much more abound, that loving Thee we may have peace with God, for Thy Name's sake. Amen.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN.

* S. LUKE X. 30-37.

O LORD JESU CHRIST, Who, when Human Nature lay stripped of original righteousness, and wounded well-nigh unto death by him who was a murderer from the beginning; and when by deeds of the Law no flesh might be justified, nor could sacrifices of the Law make the comers thereunto perfect, or take away sins, didst in Thy great compassion come from Heaven to heal our wounds, and save us to eternal life: Grant that we may after Thy example love one another with a pure heart fervently. Though half-dead in trespasses and sins our conscience still doth witness for our God, O fan that spark of life divine with Thy pure Spirit, that we may be raised up to life eternal. Cleanse and strengthen us with the wine of Thy most precious blood, Anoint us with the unction of Thy sanctifying Spirit. Though Thou wert rich with all the glories of Heaven, yet for our sakes Thou becamest poor, that we through Thy poverty might be made rich; and Thou hast placed us in Thy Church, supplying us with sacraments and all the gifts of grace, our daily food until Thou come again to receive us to Thyself. Meantime, O blessed Saviour, guide us by Thy Holy Spirit of Love, that we may shew Thy love engraven in our hearts, by doing unto the very least of Thy brethren that which Thou hast done for us; that when again Thou comest in the clouds of Heaven, we may receive that crown of glory which fadeth not away, for Thy Name's sake. Amen.

* Gos. 13th Sunday after Trinity.

THE FRIEND AT MIDNIGHT.

S. LUKE XI. 5-8.

O GOD, that hearest prayer, and Who hast taught us how that if a selfish friend can be overcome by perseverance and importunity, much more readily will a gracious God grant our petitions: Unto Thee do we cry, O Lord our Strength; think no scorn of us, lest if Thou make as though Thou hearest not, we become like unto them that go down into the pit. Grant to us such faith, such humility, such perseverance, as Thou didst bless and reward in the Syro-Phœnician woman; that we faint not when Thou seemest not to hear, but go on still with greater earnestness and fervour till Thou answerest. Endow us with such zeal and importunity as Jacob had, when all night long he wrestled with the angel, and would not let him go until he blessed him. Thou art not slack concerning Thy promise, nor yet reluctant to bestow Thy blessing, but waitest to be gracious, ready and willing to reward Thy servants, though unworthy. If Thou seemest to delay, it is but that Thou wouldest prove our faith, until in very hunger and thirst we crave after righteousness. Lord, quench our longing with that Blood of the Lamb which, whosoever drinketh dwelleth in Thee, and Thou in him. Fill us with that Bread of Heaven, which, whosoever eateth shall hunger no more, but hath eternal life. Stir us up to holy violence, that we may storm the gates of Heaven, and by strength of faith, and in the power of the Holy Ghost, find entrance there, through the merits of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE RICH FOOL.

S. LUKE XII. 16-21.

O LORD, Who hast warned us in Thy Holy Word, that we make not provision for the flesh to fulfil the lust thereof, because that he who soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption. but he who soweth to the spirit shall of the spirit reap life everlasting: Guard us, we beseech Thee, that we grasp not after worldly things with covetousness, nor let our care for this world's goods drive out the care of things belonging to the spirit. Restrain us from all undue insistence on our lawful rights, as also from all greedy snatching at the things of others. Thou hast taught us that a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of his possessions, and he that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver. nor he that loveth abundance with increase; fix therefore our hearts on more enduring substance, that our hope fade not away. Our goods are not our own, but lent by Thee to use as stewards of Thy glory, teach us to employ these talents that they may produce a godly increase, and so meet with due reward in Heaven. Keep us from vain boasting of to-morrow or of years to come, for Thou in Heaven will deride the counsels of sinners and bring them to nothing; lest when we say, "I am rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing," we be found poor towards God. If Thou givest riches, give us grace to be rich in good works. Make known to us the riches of Thy glory, that we trust not in uncertain riches, but in Thee the living God, who hast laid up in Christ for all Thy faithful servants an inheritance that fadeth not away, eternal in the Heavens, through the same our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

THE BARREN FIG TREE.

S. LUKE XIII. 6-9.

O GOD, Whose long-suffering waited in the days of Noah for one hundred and twenty years for the repentance of mankind; Who hast no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked should turn from his way and live; Who will have all men to come unto the knowledge of the truth, and be saved: Grant that we despise not the riches of Thy goodness, and forbearance, and long-suffering. Make us to see in all Thy visitations but the consequences of sin's curse on man, and guard us from uncharitable judgments on our fellow-men. As Thou wouldest have heard the prayers of righteous Abraham for Sodom, so now hear the pleadings of our gracious Intercessor, and defer Thy judgments that we may have an opportunity for turning, and find space for repentance. Thou hast planted us within Thy vineyard, that we may bear fruit; prevent us with thy grace, that we produce not only leaves, the outward fashion of good works, nor yet fair-seeming fruits full of rottenness within, alms-deeds for our own glory, devotions that may be seen of men; but fruit unto eternal life. Long have we been planted in Thy Holy Church; often have we heard Thy Word; many prayers have uttered; and been often warned; Thou knowest whether even yet, O Lord, and after more than thrice three years, we are as barren, useless, dying trees. O quicken us by Thy Holy Spirit; visit us with any chastening that may be needful to stir us up to spiritual life and holiness. Open still Thine ears to Him, our Great High Priest and Advocate, that He may water us yet more by grace and love, if so be we *may* yet yield up the holy fruits Thou dost desire, and *be accepted* for His sake. Amen.

THE GREAT SUPPER.

*S. LUKE XIV. 15-24.

O GOD, Who hast prepared for us a Great Feast of good things,—great in its company, for no man can number them,—good in its blessedness, which is more than the mind of man can conceive,—and to which Thou hast in Thy great goodness bidden us: Guard us from all presumption, and too confident assurance that we shall share with those who eat bread in the Kingdom of Heaven. In Thy great love for our souls Thou hast sent Thy Son, Who took upon Himself the form of a servant, and Thy ambassadors and priests, to tell us that the fulness of time is come, and that the blessings of Thy Gospel wait for those who will accept them: Prevent us with Thy grace lest the lust of the world and the pride of life, or over-care of this life's business, or the pleasures of the world, deprive us of our recompense and keep us from our Lord. While they that are rich in their own merits, and think that they have need of nothing, shut themselves out, call us, O Lord, the sick in trespasses and sins, the poor in spirit, to be fellow-citizens with the Saints and of the household of God. Open our hearts that we may receive Thy gracious summons, and as willing guests come in and feast with Thee. And as Thy Angels did lay hold on Lot and brought him out of Sodom, so fill the ministers of Thy Holy Church with such a deep conviction of the great importance of their message, that by holy zeal and fervour they may compel men everywhere to repent and believe the Gospel. Suffer us not to be of those who are shut out in everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and the glory of His power, but save us for Thy mercies' sake, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* Gos. 2nd Sunday after Trinity.

THE LOST SHEEP.

S. LUKE XV. 3-7.

O LORD JESU CHRIST, Who didst leave the face of Thy Father which is in Heaven, to take upon Thee our nature, and as Son of Man didst come to seek and to save that which was lost: Fill us all with that same care and tenderness toward all for whom Thou diedst, that we despise not one, however little, or however lost, whom Thou, the Good Shepherd, hast toiled and striven to bring back to Thy fold; for Thou willest not that one of these little ones should perish. Though of ourselves we cannot find the paths that lead us back to Thy Fold, Lord, help us to walk pure and unspotted amid the pollutions of the world, and keep us from despising others. Make Thy Law as a schoolmaster to bring us unto Thee, and lead us to the righteousness which is by faith, the new life of Thy Gospel. Thou camest not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance, and sinners are we all; for "all like sheep have gone astray, and we have turned every one to his own way;" we, the sheep of Thy pasture have lost and cannot find ourselves, Lord, seek us, by Thy grace, or we are lost for ever. Convince us of our sin, and grant us true contrition. Thou didst not fail through weariness or toil; the thorns that pierced Thy brow and tore Thy feet kept Thee not back, nor all the pains to which our sin had brought us frighted Thee away; Lord, by Thy Cross and Passion lay us on the Shoulders of Thy love, and bear us, 'mid the songs of Thy rejoicing Angels, home to Thy Eternal Fold in Heaven. Amen.

THE LOST PIECE OF MONEY.

*S. LUKE XV. 8-10.

O LORD JESU CHRIST, Who art made of God unto us wisdom, and by Thy Church revealest unto us the knowledge of God, and makest wise unto salvation: Endue Thy Holy Church with never-failing graces of Thy Holy Spirit, that she may be stirred up to active ministries of love for seeking and for saving souls. Thou didst ascend unto the Father that from Heaven the work might be continued which Thou didst begin on earth. Send down and shed abroad abundantly that Holy Ghost, that unto Thee lost souls may be restored. That holy image and superscription with which we were first stamped as sons of God has been defaced by sin, and well-nigh worn away, and we are faithless and unprofitable in the service of our God. But unto Thee we look to furnish Thy Church continually with the clear lamp of Thy Holy Word; and grant the ministers and stewards of Thy mysteries such earnestness and zeal, that they may seek and find lost sinners, and recover souls to Thee. Impart to us and all the members of Thy Church the spirit of Thy holy fear, that we may further with our utmost strength all ministries of love, and do our part as Thou dost give us opportunity and grace to fill the number up of Thy redeemed. So shall we indeed have fellowship in the mystery, which from the beginning of the world had been hid in God, but now is manifest in Thee our Lord. And thus, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of Heaven, who compass us about and join in all our holy gladness, with all Thy Church in Heaven and on earth may we rejoice and laud and magnify Thy Holy Name. Amen.

*Gos 3rd Sunday after Trinity.

THE PRODIGAL SON.

S. LUKE XV. 11-32.

O GOD, our Father in Heaven, Who at our Baptism hast made us Thy children by adoption and grace, and inheritors of the kingdom of Heaven; and on each of us bestowed Thy talents of nature and of grace to use and spend in Thy service, the Holy Spirit dividing to every man severally as He would: Keep us faithful and obedient members of Thy Church and Household, that we may ever dwell in all humility and thankfulness with Thee and in Thy love. Too soon, alas! we lose the brightness of our baptismal robe, and wander far away from Thy protecting care. We would try pastures new, and taste the seductive pleasures of sin. Our life is in our hands, and we would lay it out to selfish ends. Thus fall we into bondage; serving the creature rather than the Creator; slaves of sin and lust and evil pleasures, till we taste at last the weariness, the vanity of all. We scorn the Bread of Life, the food of Angels, and we hunger for the husks of swine, enlarging our desires as hell, and find no satisfying, though with both hands working evil greedily. Thee we forsake, O Father, but Thy love forsaketh not us. By Thy Spirit of grace preventing us Thou dost rouse within our souls the dying spark of conscience, and whisper to our souls of all we have despised and lost. Lord, thus convince and rouse all wandering and straying children. Convert them from their sinful ways, and bring them to Thy feet, confessing, penitent. Afar off hear Thy prodigals returning. Greet us with the kiss of peace and reconciliation in Christ Jesus. Put on us the robe of justification. Seal us with the seal of our adoption through the Spirit, and feed us with the Bread of Life, that Feast which never cloyeth, but endureth to Eternal life, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE UNJUST STEWARD.

* S. LUKE XVI. 1-9.

O LORD, Who hast set before us the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, Who will render to every man according to his deeds; to them who by patient continuance in well-doing seek for glory, honour, and immortality, eternal life; but unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation, and wrath, tribulation of soul and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil; but glory, honour, and peace to every man that worketh good: Keep ever in our minds that we must one day stand before the judgment seat of Christ, when every one of us shall give account of himself to Thee. All that we have we have of Thee, as stewards in Thy service, for Thy use; and Thou hast dealt with us abundantly; upbraid us not whom Thou hast so far trusted, and to whom so much committed, that we have sought our own advantage, not the things of God. Draw us, though it be by chastisement, from putting trust in anything but Thee. Permit us not to lower Thy high standard of righteousness and obedience, but endow us with true Prudence, that as children of this present world we use not heavenly things for earthly objects, but rather earthly things for heavenly. Guide us that we be not earthly minded, and that we may use our liberty in works of holiness; and, knowing that we are sons of day and light, may bring forth deeds of light, done in sincerity and truth. Enable us to lay up treasures in heaven; to be as wise as serpents, while harmless as doves; choosing Thy service rather than that of mammon; and receive us in Thine own good time into Thine everlasting habitations, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

* Gos. 9th Sunday after Trinity.

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS.

* S. LUKE XVI. 19-31.

O GOD, Who hast chosen the poor of this world, rich in faith, and heirs of the Kingdom which Thou hast promised to them that love Thee: Grant us the true humility of lowly child-like faith, that having nothing here of lasting good, we may in Thee possess eternal riches. Root from our hearts all unbelief in righteousness, and truth, and spiritual joy, lest we should fix our hopes on earthly things of touch, and taste and smell, and trust in them for all our happiness, neglecting mercy, goodness, love. Keep us, O Lord, from spending more than we ought in feasting and dress, whilst the wants of those who are perishing from temporal or spiritual destitution are calling aloud to us all around. Preserve us from reliance on Cain's excuse, and help us to realize that we are each responsible for our brother's welfare. As children of Thy love, fill us with Thy divine compassion for all the sick and poor and sad around us. They lie ever at our gates; teach us by their example faith, and patience, and submission to Thy will. We have them with us always, as we have the witness of Thy holy Word; nor need we signs and wonders that we might believe, for One has even risen from the dead, that we might live in Him, and follow Him in perfect charity. Good Lord, so guide us in the way of life eternal, that we trust not in uncertain riches, but lay up our treasure where our names are entered in the Book of Life; that from this life of faith and loving deeds we may be carried by the Angels to the bosom of our Lord, that Rest of Paradise, wherein Thy Saints do wait for their eternal joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* Gos. 1st Sunday after Trinity.

THE UNPROFITABLE SERVANT.

S. LUKE XVII. 7-10.

O GOD, Who hast taught us in Thy Holy Word that all things are possible to him that is full of the Holy Ghost and of Faith: Increase our Faith that we may do such works in the spiritual world as are impossible to the natural man; that it may remove mountains of pride and obstinacy, and pluck up by the roots the firmest and most deeply-grounded habits of sin. And with our Faith increase Humility, convincing us that even if our Faith were strong enough to overcome all difficulties and perform all Thy will, we have not anything wherein to boast, for we are still Thy servants, bound to do the utmost of Thy will and pleasure. Take from us all conceit that we can earn from Thee reward for some few things, when we owe Thee already all that we can do. For we can never compass all our duty, and far less deserve Thy thanks for what we do. Thine we are, bought with a price, even with the precious blood of Christ. The best we can do falls far short of what we owe to Thee. We leave undone those things we ought to do; we do those things that we ought not to do, and there is no health in us. Have mercy on us, Lord, unprofitable servants, miserable offenders that we are. Enter not into judgment with Thy servants, O Lord, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified by any service he can do, but only through the Blood of Jesus. Make us therefore very humble, fully trusting to Thy love, and bless us as those servants whom the Lord, when He shall come, may find watching, for His sake. Amen.

THE UNJUST JUDGE.

S. LUKE XVIII. 1-8.

O GOD, the Hearer of Prayer, Who hast taught us in Thy Holy Word that the Son of Man, when He cometh, will hardly find faith upon the earth: Grant to us that true Faith which doth not faint in prayer; which hopes against hope, and believes that light will break forth even when the darkness is thickest, and thus continues to persevere importunate in prayer. At times indeed Thou seemest to turn a deaf ear to the prayers of Thine elect. In the furnace of affliction we become impatient, and inclined to cry out with the storm-tossed disciples, "Carest Thou not that we perish!" But though Thou tarry long, and bear us long in hand, Thou art not slack as some count slackness; but though it be in the last watch of the night, when patience has had its perfect work, Thou wilt hear our voice, and grant us deliverance from the evils that oppress us in an unbelieving godless world. Because iniquity abounds, the love of many waxeth cold; and when we seem to call in vain, Thou, Holy and All-Righteous, appearest even as an unjust Judge. But even with an evil man incessant supplication must prevail, how much more therefore shall unceasing faithful prayer prevail with Thee, the righteous God! Implant within our hearts continual desire for Thee, that though we may not always bend the knee, nor bow the body, nor lift up the hands unceasingly, our souls may ever still look up to Thee. Our adversary, the devil, as a spiritual Herod, seeks to slay the children of Thy Kingdom, and we groan within ourselves; but grant us grace to wait in faith and patience for the perfecting of our redemption, through our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE PHARISEE AND THE PUBLICAN.

* S. LUKE XVIII. 9-14.

ALMIGHTY GOD, Who resistest the proud and giveth grace unto the humble; and Who hast chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things that are mighty, and base things of the world, and things which are despised, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are; that no flesh should glory in Thy presence: Fill us with true humility and self-abasement for our sins, that we may draw near to Thee with contrite hearts, which Thou wilt not despise. Suffer us not to be as those that commend themselves, measuring themselves by themselves, and who, comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise, for not him that commendeth himself wilt Thou approve, but whom the Lord commendeth. Reveal to us that though we be Christ's disciples, still there is a plague in our own hearts, that root of sin which remaineth even in those that are regenerate; lest while we thank Thee for our many privileges and graces, we be nourishing the seeds of pride, and so despising others be despised by Thee. Do Thou cover our wounds of sin, and not ourselves, for if in shame we seek to cover them the good Physician will not heal them. We cover but to hide them from Thy Sight, to Whom all things are known: Thou coverest with pardon, but to wipe them all away. Our sins have separated between us and Thee, and we must stand afar off in our shame; but Thou art nigh unto the contrite heart. Pour out Thy balm of Thy forgiveness; justify us through the merits of our Saviour. So shall no discord of self-righteous scorn disturb the harmonies of those angelic songs with which the penitent are welcomed to the joys of Heaven, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

* Gos. 11th Sunday after Trinity.

THE POUNDS.

S. LUKE XIX. 11-27.

O LORD JESU CHRIST, by earthly descent Son of Abraham and Son of David, and therefore worthy to be King of all men: Who didst ascend into Heaven to be enthroned and exalted to the Right Hand of God, as King of kings, and Lord of lords, the Prince of the kings of the earth, Who shalt judge the quick and the dead at Thy appearing: It is not for us to know the times and seasons which the Father hath put in Thine own power; grant us therefore the patience of hope and faith, that we look not for Thy coming with an idle curiosity, but working actively and zealously as fellow-citizens with the Saints. To each of us, the members of Thy Church and Kingdom, hast Thou given duties, talents, powers, to use for Thee and in Thy service: There are diversities of gifts, and differences of administration, but the same Spirit and the same Lord: Help us to bring forth faithfully and richly fruits meet for Thee, that according to our works, though not according to our merits, but Thy mercies, we may be abundantly rewarded. Thee only will we have to reign over us; rule us by Thy grace in all holy obedience, that we may serve Thee, body, soul, and spirit, looking for the recompense of reward which Thou hast promised. We know that Thou in Heaven hast many mansions, and that as there is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars, so shall we be blessed in the Resurrection according as Thou hast dealt to every man the measure of faith. The vessels of Thy Grace, some larger and some smaller, shall be all as full as they may hold of glory. Therefore will we praise Thy Holy Name, Who with the Father and the Holy Ghost, *reignest for* ever One God. Amen.

V. THE MIRACLES.

V.—THE MIRACLES.

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THE WATER TURNED INTO WINE.

* S. JOHN II. 1-11.

O LORD JESU CHRIST, by Whom all things were created, that are in Heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible; and Who dealest as Thou wilt with things of Thy creation, and dost manifest Thy glory that we may believe on Thee: We thank Thee for that Love which works but to ennoble fallen nature. For us Thou didst in mercy change the watery elements of the Law into the pure wine of the Gospel. By Thy regenerating power Thou makest saints out of sinners, angels out of men, Paradise out of a world's wilderness, Heaven out of Hell. So sanctify all life to us that, with Thee as our Guest, our social joys may be purified and hallowed, and even sorrow consecrated to a closer union with Thee. Teach us to cherish carefully that holy mystical union that is betwixt Thee and Thy Bride, the Church, that we may love but what Thou lovest, and obey Thy slightest word. Thou, Who didst make the waters and the earth to bring forth fruits of life, hast now bestowed upon us waters of salvation, the Cup of Blessing, and the Bread of Life: Make them bring forth in us the fruits of Holiness and Love. Keep us from the folly of indulging in the pleasures of this short life, regardless of the end; but give us rather now the waters of repentance, and at last the chalice of Thy Love. Although in this life we appear to have the worst, yet enable us to trust in Thee, and look with faith and hope to that great Blessedness Thou hast in store of unconceived delights, reserved for those who shall sit down at last, restored, redeemed, forgiven, at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Amen.

* E. L. 2nd Sunday after Epiphany.

THE NOBLEMAN'S SERVANT HEALED.

* S. JOHN IV. 46-54.

O GOD, Who dost plant in our hearts, even as a grain of mustard seed, the first beginnings of a saving Faith: Cherish it, we beseech Thee, with the dew of Thy grace, and the care of Thy good providence, that it may grow up unto perfection. Let us not blindly wait, seeking for signs and wonders ere we fully believe, but so dispose us by Thy merçiful guiding that we may learn to put implicit trust in Thy love and goodness and unbounded power. Teach us to perceive in sorrow and affliction the signs that are sent to lead us unto Thee; and as Thou didst increase the Nobleman's imperfect Faith, in answer to his persevering, fervent prayer, so make our prayers effectual, that we be not discouraged nor cast down, but put our confidence in Thy Almighty Power and the exhaustless sources of Thy grace. Shew us how blind we are, that we may see, and open out before our souls Thy goodness and Thy glory. Make us to feel our helplessness, that we may long for Strength and Faith that may increase within us till it bring us to Thy presence. We are weak and sick, and so are all we love around us, sick with the disease of sin, yea, well-nigh unto death: Draw us and all who labour and are heavy laden unto Thee, that we may find in Jesus healing and rest unto our souls. Not unto us alone, but unto all this house and church and nation, yea, and all men, grant such perfect faith, that we may find in Him forgiveness and remission of our sins, and life and joy eternal: Even in Jesus Christ, Thy Son our Lord. Amen.

* Gos. 21st Sunday after Trinity.

THE FIRST MIRACULOUS DRAUGHT OF FISHES.

* S. LUKE V. 1-11.

O GOD, Who by the foolish things of the world dost confound the wise, and by the weak things of the world dost confound the strong: We praise, and thank, and glorify Thy Holy Name, Who didst choose the simple fishermen of Galilee as aptest instruments to work Thy Will and establish Thy Kingdom. "Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." Increase and help our faith that we may dare with hope and courage to let down the net at Thy command, that so our faith may be rewarded, and Thy Church enlarged, and filled with souls redeemed from the depths of sin and waters of destruction. Further, O Lord, with the secret magic of Thy Will the poor imperfect efforts of Thy servants; and as Thou guidedst Thy unconscious creatures and didst make them minister to the higher interests of Thy Kingdom, so into the Net, Thy Church, bring souls for life and not for death. Gather into one divided hearts, the fathers to the children, and all the scattered tribes of men into one Fellowship. When we approach Thy mightiness, and know our own unworthiness and littleness before Thee, and feel constrained to bid Thee further from us, for that we are of unclean lips, and sinful creatures in Thy all-pure sight, and cannot bear Thy presence; O Lord, raise us from our lowliness, and make us know that only near Thee are we safe, and Thou hast grace and strength to help us in our time of need. Take from our faith and love all fear and trembling that hath torment; give to us such fear as holy Angels have, and fit us for Thy presence, that we may serve Thee faithfully, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* Gos. 5th Sunday after Trinity.

THE STILLING OF THE TEMPEST.

S. MARK IV. 35-41.

O LORD OUR GOD, Who art from everlasting, "The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their waves; but the Lord on high is mightier than the voice of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea:" Reveal Thyself to us as our Refuge and strength, a very present Help in trouble, that so we may not fear, though the earth may be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled; though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Behold Thy people tossed and storm-driven in the Ark of Thy Church on the restless and troublous waves of this sinful world; suffer not our faith to fail, but fix our hearts on Him Who is our Saviour, and Who rules and guides His Church. The gates of hell may rage against it, but shall not prevail. He needed not, as Moses, to stretch out His rod; His voice, the word of Him Who made all things, can bring them to subjection at His Will. O Lord God of Hosts, who is like unto Thee; Thou rulest the raging of the sea; when the waves arise Thou stillest them. Thou carest for our souls, and willest not that any should perish, but that all should come to everlasting life; awake within us, Lord, our slumbering faith, and save us for Thy mercies' sake. Calm Thou the storms that threaten to overwhelm, and shed abroad upon our souls that peace which passeth understanding; peace with Thee, through Him, The Prince of peace, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE DEMONIACS IN THE COUNTRY OF THE GADARENES.

S. MARK V. 1-20.

O LORD, Whose blessed Son was manifested that He might destroy the works of the devil: Grant Thy grace to those who are taken captive by him at his will, that they may recover themselves out of his snares and be restored and reconciled to Thee. Say to Thy servants who lie bound in the hour and power of darkness, "Let there be light," that the hope of renovation through the Saviour may shed gladness on their souls. May He, the Prince of peace, who calmed the winds and waves, and hushed the tumult with a word, speak peace to all whose human passions are lashed into fury by the spirit of darkness. Call out the unclean spirits from the souls of those who groan beneath their bondage. Lords many are there over us; our sins are legion, and we lie benumbed and prostrate beneath their power, for it is mighty; but He, the Son of Man, is mightier, and can spoil the strong man's house. Deliver us, we pray Thee, from the grievous yoke; unloose our bonds, and bid us rise in true repentance, clothed with the righteousness of Christ, and calm in mind. Take from the goods and pleasures of this world all power to blind our eyes to spiritual blessings, lest we resent the presence of our Lord, and entreat Him to depart and leave us to ourselves; lest we thrust away the life and salvation which He brings. Keep us from longing in our unwise zeal for other work than He has set out for us, and help us to bring others to the mercy and compassion of the Saviour, and the blessings of Thy love, for Jesus Christ His Sake. Amen.

THE RAISING OF JAIRUS' DAUGHTER.

S. MARK V. 22-24 and 35-42.

O JESU, Lord of life and death, compassionate Lover of the souls of men: Have mercy on all lying in the bonds of sin, and perishing for lack of help. We come to Thee in humble faith, and lowly worship, doing reverent homage to our King and God, beseeching Thee of Thy great pity to restore the penitent sin-stricken soul. No tale of woe was ever heard by Thee in vain; hear us, we pray Thee, hear us, Lord, in our distress. Bow down Thine ear and hearken to our supplication. And though Thou seem to tarry long, it is but that the trial of our patience may increase our faith. Cast out, O Lord, all fear, and strengthen failing faith, that we may trust in Thy Almightiness and Love. Calm all the tumults of our souls, and banish thence all noise and discord of the boisterous world, all sounds of hopeless woe, all scornful and profane imaginations, that Thy Temple may be cleansed and hushed, and we may hear Thy still calm voice, and wake and rise again to hear Thy Word. Prepare us for that hour when all the dead, the friends whom we have known and loved, and those who have for ages long past slumbered in the grave, shall hear Thy voice and the Archangel's trump, and rise to meet Thee at the judgment day. Grant us a place at Thy right hand, that we may enter with the happy soul Thou hast redeemed, as welcome guests into the Marriage Feast of Heaven, for Thy Name's sake. Amen.

THE HEALING OF THE WOMAN WITH AN ISSUE OF BLOOD.

S. MARK V. 25-34.

O LORD JESU CHRIST, Who needest not that any should testify of man, for Thou knowest what is in man: We do confess that in our nature, though regenerate, we have a spring of sin, a fountain ever flowing unless checked by grace; and all the medicines of the world, its solaces and charms, its systems and philosophies, can never staunch its flow; but Thou art He who healest all our diseases; Who bindest up our wounds, and rescuest from all destruction, and Thou waitest to be gracious. Many, Lord, there are who mix with those who follow Thee, and throng upon Thee; Thine in name and outward seeming, but not touching Thee, because not drawing nigh in faith; not looking for, and therefore not obtaining strength and healing for their souls. Deliver us from all false seeming and hypocrisy, that we may come, though trembling, yet confessing, through the straight and narrow way of self-humiliation and contrition to seek Thy healing virtue. Through all the means of grace, by faithful use of Thy ordained sacraments, may we humbly dare to touch the hem of Thy garment, and bring our souls in contact with Thy Godhead. Not touching with a Judas kiss, but coming with a sense of want, and pressing through all difficulties and discouragements, in spite of our own weakness and the foes of our salvation. Lord, answer to our touch, and send Thy virtue forth and heal us. Then shall we know Thee better, and behold in Thee our Lord and Saviour, Jesus. Amen.

THE OPENING OF THE EYES OF THE TWO BLIND IN THE HOUSE.

S. MARK IX. 27-31.

O MOST merciful God and gracious Saviour, Thou Dayspring from on high, Who didst appear to those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, to give them light and hope through the Gospel: Grant us, we pray Thee, grace to know and feel our own infirmities, and faith to follow Thee for healing and deliverance. According to our Faith, so be it unto us. O Lord, Thou Son of David, we believe, help Thou our unbelief. We do confess with sorrow that the lusts and evil cravings of our mortal nature blind our souls. We wait for light, but, behold, obscurity; for brightness, but we walk in darkness still; we stumble at noonday as in the night, for sin obscures our vision that we cannot see Thy Light and Thy Salvation. O Lord, touch us with Thy loving Hand, that we may see and know, and follow Thee, rejoicing in Thy mercy. Take from us, by the Power of the Holy Ghost, all unholy thoughts, and foul desires and evil longings, lest we love the darkness rather than the light, because it hides our wickedness. Make us to fear Thy Holy Name, so shalt Thou, Sun of Righteousness, arise with healing in Thy wings for us, and we who were before in darkness, knowing not whither we went, may now behold in Thee the true Light of the world, and following Thee may have the Light of Life. Reveal to us, and guide us with, Thy pure illuminating Grace, that we may tread the path of faith and holiness, which leads unto the glories of eternal day. Lord, hear our prayer. In Thy compassion, hear us for the Saviour's sake. Amen.

THE HEALING OF THE PARALYTIC.

S. MARK II. 1-12.

O GOD, Almighty and Merciful, Lover of souls, Who wouldest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should turn from his wickedness and live: Thou knowest the disease that numbs the souls of men, and binds them in the chains of evil habits, keeping them from drawing near to Thee for pardon and release. Root out, we pray Thee, from our hearts all unbelief and wilful self-indulgence. The good we would we cannot do, for stronger is our evil lust than all our holy resolutions. Grant us more grace, and bring us to the Good Physician Who will heal our souls. Reveal Thy mercy to the burdened heart, that it may cast off all the weight of sin, and rise to give Thee glory. We thank Thee that Thou hast in mercy set us round with ministries of grace, and all things needful to our health and safety in Thy Holy Church; we pray Thee, bless those sacraments and ordinances to our full salvation. Hear the prayers of all who love us. Look upon those mothers' tears, those anxious supplications of our friends, those fervent intercessions of our spiritual pastors, which have borne us even to the feet of Jesus; that we may be of good cheer, arising from the bed of sloth, and walking in the strength of grace renewed. Direct and strengthen all Thy servants in their work of winning souls to Thee, that nothing may defeat their holy zeal. Increase and help their faith, that they may overcome all difficulties, and bring in many souls to glorify Thee in Thy Kingdom, through our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE CLEANSING OF THE LEPER.

S. MARK I. 40-45.

O ALMIGHTY and Merciful Father, Who by the plague of leprosy hast set before us the deadly nature of sin, which shuts men out from the city and the camp of God, wherein there can in no wise enter anything that defileth: We thank Thee that in Thine infinite Love Thou hast provided for us that pure and stainless Saviour, Who alone could cleanse our vile infirmity, and, Who, by taking on Himself our flesh, was able to drive out that foul disease, incurable by man, which God alone could cure. We praise Thy Holy Name that He, Who knew not sin, became for us as sin Himself, that we might be made in Him the righteousness of God. For He became Himself as the Serpent, the very emblem of sin and death, that we might be healed from the serpent's wounds; and as the hand of Moses became leprous that it might be again restored; as the dead bones of Elisha gave life; so Christ Himself became as unclean that we might be made clean in Him, and dead that we might live. Grant us, we pray Thee, that true knowledge of ourselves that we may see our sin and danger, and come with understanding faith, and humble penitence, and earnest devotion, to Him, Who took upon Him our uncleanness, and the curse of the law, and so receive the pardon of our sins. Give to all sinners grace that though unclean they may approach the great Physician, if it be with reverence and true contrition, with a full and living faith in His Almighty Power, Whose mere Will can do all things. Restore the penitent to full communion with Thy Church, and bring us, cleansed and purified, to offer unto Thee, ourselves, our souls and bodies, an offering of thanksgiving, an acceptable sacrifice, through *the same* Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE HEALING OF THE CENTURION'S SERVANT.

S. LUKE VII. 1-10.

O MERCIFUL GOD, incline Thy gracious ears to our prayers, and enlighten our hearts with Thy Holy Spirit of Love, that in all men for whom Christ has died we may perceive our brethren, and by our love may be raised up to know Thee as our Father in Thy well-beloved Son. Give us a due sense of our great unworthiness that Christ should enter into our doors, that He may come into our hearts, and dwell there. We know we may not see Him with our bodily eyes, but help us to believe that He is dwelling in us by His Spirit, though He may not sojourn in our earthly home. O make our righteousness exceed the righteousness of Scribes and Pharisees, who, going about to establish their own righteousness, knew not the righteousness of God. Teach us to be merciful that we may obtain mercy; poor in spirit that we may find an entrance into Thy Kingdom; making friends of the mammon of unrighteousness, that through them we may be received to everlasting habitations. Grant us faith to see in Jesus Christ eternal power everywhere to execute His Will, to Whom disease and death and everything obey as soldiers to their Captain. Lord, we believe, help Thou our unbelief, and hear our humble prayer, that we may be of those Thy children, rescued from the world, and gathered to the fellowship of Thy Church, to eat and drink at Thy Table, in Thy Kingdom of rest and felicity. Make us to sit down with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, and those many who shall come from all nations unto the mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the Heavenly Jerusalem, the Church of the first-born, and the spirits of just men made perfect, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE DEMONIAC HEALED.

S. MARK I. 23-27.

O BLESSED and Eternal Lord Jesu Christ, Who of Thine infinite Love and Pity didst come down from Heaven to save us sinners from the power of the devil, and from the pains of hell: Grant to us that, as the devils acknowledged Thee as "The Holy One of God, the Christ, the Son of God most High," although they trembled in their faith, so we may know Thee as the Saviour of our souls and bodies, in Whose keeping we are safe; for "the souls of the righteous are in the hand of the Lord," and "no torment shall touch them." However great may be our sufferings, yet not a hair shall perish; none shall pluck us from Thy hand. Refrain, O Lord, the fierceness of the wicked, and all evil spirits, who are ever striving to encompass our destruction. Turn their fierceness to Thy praise, and our trial to our salvation. In serving Thee we must prepare our souls for temptation, for our adversary the devil as a roaring lion walketh about seeking whom he may devour; enable us in stedfast faith, and soberness, and prayer, and watching, to resist him, that he may flee from us. Thou didst begin Thy ministry on earth, by going about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil, and thus, by the finger of God, casting out devils, didst reveal the coming of Thy kingdom. Thou didst bestow on Thy Apostles power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and all the power of the enemy: Lord, grant us grace and strength of faith, that we may also cast out every sinful habit, and exalt us in due time to Thine eternal glory in the rest and peace of Heaven. Amen.

THE HEALING OF SIMON'S WIFE'S MOTHER.

S. MATT. VIII. 14-17.

O MOST Loving and Merciful Saviour, Who in love to our souls, and because Thou knewest our weakness, and how utterly unable we are of ourselves to do or desire, or even to think anything good without Thee, didst on Thyself take our infirmities, and bear our sicknesses: Look with Thy mercy, we beseech Thee, upon all who lie oppressed and helpless in the grasp of sin. We cannot of ourselves shake off the deadly hold of evil habits, nor raise up a hand to work for Thee, without Thy gracious help. Lord, look upon our weakness; listen to the prayers of those who love us, and whose love has no other means than prayer to lay hold on Thy help. Especially vouchsafe to hearken to the supplications of the faithful, when with the Church they plead before the Father Thy most precious death. But even in the midst of friends we may be lonely; our own heart alone can know its bitterness. Even the tenderest human sympathy falls short. Thou only understandest how each trial presses, when we faint with weakness or are quick to feel. Thou only, God-man, Jesus Christ, canst know and feel with all. Thou weighest all we have to bear, and measurest the hardness of our task, the soreness of our pain and weariness. Thou dost not spare us all grief, for Thou longest most to free us from our sins, but Thou wilt make Thy love felt, and wilt put Thyself beneath our cross that its weight may not crush us. Cheer our faith, O Lord and make us strong in Thine own might, that we may rise refreshed, restored, and eager for Thy service, and prepared to minister henceforth of all our best to Thee, for Thy Name's sake. Amen.

THE RAISING OF THE WIDOW'S SON.

* S. LUKE VII. 11-16.

O LOVING and most Merciful Jesus, Who didst suffer and die, and art able to feel and sympathise with all our sorrow; Who comfortest those that are cast down, and declarest Thy Almighty Power most chiefly in shewing Mercy and Pity: Have mercy upon us, and embrace us in the arms of Thine Eternal Love. Not only dost Thou hear the prayers of those who cry aloud, but even the silent sighing of the sorrowful reaches unto Thee. Lord, Thou hast heard the desire of the poor; Thou preparest their heart, and Thine ear hearkeneth thereto. Although Thou dost require us to seek Thee, and dost wait for us to ask, yet un-entreated sometimes Thou wilt come to meet us with Thy providence and grace, and send Thy mercy down upon mere helplessness of need. Meet, Lord, those dead in trespasses and sins, and even as Thou didst touch the bier, so touch them through Thy Cross, and raise them up to life. Come unto them and say, "Awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead," that so the sinner may arise and speak, confessing his sins; and Thou shalt give her lost child back again unto the Church. Leave not Thy children, Lord, to perish in forgetfulness of Thee, but make them hear Thy sweet consoling voice, and, strengthened by Thy grace, arise. Thou, Who dost make Thine own all human sorrow, and in Thy divine compassion bid the mourners "weep not;" "Refrain thy voice from weeping and thine eyes from tears;" bring us at last to that eternal home, where God shall wipe away all tears from our eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for Thy Name's sake. Amen.

* Gos. 16th Sunday after Trinity.

THE HEALING OF THE IMPOTENT MAN AT BETHESDA.

S. JOHN V. 1-16.

O MOST Merciful and Compassionate Saviour, behold this multitude of sick, and blind, and lame, and withered, gathered on the threshold of Thy grace. Our own will hath through sin brought on our malady; our own will, bringing us to Thee, doth wait for restoration. In man the sinner hath no help, nor in himself; his sin has cast him out from the Communion of Saints, and he lies bound and impotent. But close at hand Thou standest, "Man of Sorrows!" We looked for some one to have pity, but there was no man. But Thou alone, the God-man, Jesus Christ, art strong to heal and save, our Mediator, our Physician, Who hast power on earth to take away our sins. An angel went down to the waters of Bethesda, and the first alone who stepped in was cured; but Thou, the Lord of angels, wentest down to Jordan, and didst sanctify the outward means of water for the healing of the world; and didst Thou cast the whole world in, its holy virtue would suffice to do away all sin and all uncleanness. We praise and thank Thee, Lord. for Thy regenerating grace. Help us and guard us by Thy Holy Spirit, that we sin no more, but go forth in Thy grace from strength to strength, and bear our cross in humble following of Thee. Within Thy Temple, and supported by Thy Sacraments and ministries of love, may we be found rejoicing with thanksgiving; rendering to Thee the acceptable sacrifice of pure and holy lives. Continue to us through this life on earth the blessings of Thy love; until we reach at last the Sabbath of Thy Bliss in Heaven, through Thy Precious Blood. Amen.

THE MIRACULOUS FEEDING OF THE FIVE THOUSAND.

S. MARK VI. 34-44.

O LORD JESU CHRIST, Thou Son of Man, Who camest not to be ministered unto but to minister: Grant us grace that we may ever look to Thee for our spiritual food and sustenance. As Thou didst have compassion on the multitudes that journeyed to Jerusalem where they might keep the holy Feast, so lead us in the way of duty that we may be blessed by Thee. When doubt and unbelief would say, "Shall God prepare a table for us in the wilderness," do Thou, Who openest Thine Hand, and fillest all things living with plenteousness, fulfil Thy blessed promise, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." Enable us to come unto Thee, taking no thought what we should eat or what we should drink, but desiring most of all to hear the Word of Life, and seeking after Thee. To depart we have no need, or seek elsewhere for life, for Thou alone hast Life and Rest. Little we have to give, but when we bring to Thee the little that we have, then with Thy blessing we shall have abundance. Thou departest but that we may follow; Thou dost wait that we may ask. Thou shewest all our helplessness, that we may look to none but Thee, and on the desert mountains welcomest the weary, and dost teach the ignorant, and feed our hungry souls. "The eyes of all wait upon Thee, and Thou givest them meat in due season," even the Food of Thy most holy Flesh and Blood. Thy love fails not in using, even the fragments of Thy grace abound beyond our needs. Lord, fill us with Thyself, that we may live in Thee and Thou in us, our Saviour and our King, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE WALKING ON THE SEA.

S. MATT. XIV. 22-33.

ALMIGHTY and most Merciful Saviour, Whose way is in the sea, and Thy path in the great waters; Thy mercy is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Thee, and Thy righteousness unto children's children, unto such as keep Thy covenant, and to those that remember Thy Commandments to do them: Look upon Thy Church, we pray Thee, tossed and troubled on the raging ocean of this world. While Thou art absent Thy disciples toil in rowing, struggling painfully against the threatening waves; the winds are contrary, our progress slow, and dangers crowd around us; but suffer not our faith to fail, nor courage to forsake us. Enable us to look to Thee, who prayest on the Heavenly mountain, ever-living, an ascended Saviour, to make intercession for us. Thou puttest forth Thy faithful, even as the loving mother thrusts her fledgelings from the nest, that they may find their wings and learn to use them; Lord, work within us trust and confidence in Thine abiding ever-ready help, for though unseen, Thou art indeed "A very present Help in needful time of trouble." Come to us, although it may be in some unwonted manner, in affliction, sorrow, cross or trial; though it may apppear as Thou would'st pass us by, Thou only seemest to forsake that we may pray and trust Thee more. Increase our faith, and guard us from presumption, lest we fail when stress of trial comes. Say to Thy servants, "It is I, be not afraid." Stretch out Thy loving and sustaining hand, and let Thy mercy hold us up; until we come with all we love, safe guarded in Thy Holy Church, unto the haven of the Heavenly Home, where fear and doubt shall be no more, but Thy redeemed shall rest for ever in Thy boundless love. Amen.

THE OPENING OF THE EYES OF ONE BORN BLIND.

S. JOHN IX.

O CHRIST, Who hast flesh and no corruption, pity us for we have both; for many are weak and feeble among us, and we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves. In the midst of this long contradiction of sinners against Thyself, Lord, shew Thine infinite mercy and divine compassion. Visit not upon the children the transgression of the fathers, nor our own transgressions, but so deal with us that Thine Almighty works may be made manifest, and by removal of our blindness Thy great Grace and Glory may be magnified. The darkness overshadows us outwardly, that in Thine own good time the light of Heaven may break; Arise, O Sun of Righteousness, with healing on Thy wings. Thy voice it was that said, "Let there be Light," and there was Light. Disposer but not Author of all evil, Thou distributest it according to all wisdom, righteousness, and grace. As long as Thou wert in the world, Thou wert The Light of the world. O guide us by that Light of Thine, that we may do Thy work while it is day. Wash us in Thy all-cleansing Blood, and give us courage to avow our faith in Thee, that no vain questionings disturb our faith, but we may rest at peace in knowing Thee, the Healer and Restorer of our souls. Take up into Thy loving care the souls forsaken by the world. Bless us when men shall hate us, and reproach and cast us out, for Thy Name's sake; their understandings being darkened, and their hearts estranged from the life of God, through ignorance abiding in them. Kindle within our souls the Light divine, and make it shine more clearly, till the night of sin is lost in fulness of that Perfect Day, when we shall need no sun or moon, but all the City shall be lighted with the Lamb of God. Amen.

THE RESTORING OF THE MAN WITH A WITHERED HAND.

S. MARK III. 1-5.

LORD JESUS CHRIST, Who art Thyself the Living Temple, we pray Thee to bear blameless and defend all those Thy servants who minister about the Temple not made with hands, the true Tabernacle which the Lord pitched and not men. Thou desirest mercy and not sacrifice, looking not for offerings in letter and mere outward observance, but the inward free outpouring of our love, the giving up of self. Make us to please Thee by the exercise of meekness and mercy; by charitable judgment of our brethren; by that perfect love out of a pure heart which to Thee is more than whole burnt-offerings. Thy purpose in creating man was not that he might keep a Sabbath of indulgent rest, but Thou didst ordain the Sabbath that to man it might bring peace and blessing. So train and discipline us by Thine ordinances, that the will and impulse of our spirit may bring us to serve the Lord. Thou camest not among us to destroy the Law, but to transform and purify it: Change it for us from bondage into liberty, from letter into spirit. We come within Thy Temple with our hands fast bound in misery and sin. The right hand, which stretched forth in Adam to forbidden fruit, is withered and dried up, but through Thy sinless hands spread forth upon the cross, restore it, we beseech Thee. This hand which has by sin and disobedience been struck helpless, as the hand of Jeroboam when he sacrificed to idols, we implore Thee by Thy grace restore again, that it may do Thy Works. Infuse afresh within these dried and withered branches the pure sap and spirit of the Vine, that we may live in Thee, and bring forth fruit abundantly, for Thy Name's sake. Amen.

THE RESTORING OF A WOMAN WITH A SPIRIT OF INFIRMITY.

O MERCIFUL, long-suffering Saviour, Who for us so patiently didst bear and long endure the contradiction of sinners against Thyself: Teach us to bear with meekness all the malice of our adversaries. Fill our hearts with love and patience that we may give good for evil, and for cursing blessing. Let no cloud deceive our consciences, that we should strive for some exact observance of Thy law, while weightier matters are passed by and unobserved. Raise up our heads from poring on the dust beneath our feet, the base and sordid things of this world. Lift up this human face divine, which Thou didst fashion to look up towards the Heavens and behold the stars, but now is bent down on the ground, like that of beasts, unable to raise up itself beneath the bond of Satan, and long habitude of sinful lusts. Behold us, children of the faithful Abraham, for we are Thy brethren by adoption; call us by Thy voice of pity from this servitude of sin. Mould us anew by Thine all-powerful grace, and draw our wandering eyes to Thee, our Saviour, where Thou sittest in the Heavens, interceding for us. Seek out the sinners with the light of Thine all-searching Eye, glowing with mercy. Call them with all the sweet and tender music of Thy Holy Word, appealing to their inmost hearts. Draw them and heal them by Thy Sovereign Will; and cheer and strengthen all who labour and are heavy-laden, with the heavenly Food of Thy life-giving Flesh and Blood, that they may praise Thee with thanksgiving evermore. Amen.

THE HEALING OF THE MAN WITH A DROPSY.

* S. LUKE XIV. 1-6.

O MERCIFUL and Loving Jesu Christ, Thou needest not that any man should ask Thee, for Thou knowest what we need before we ask, and suffering and sorrow are before Thy face an all-prevailing prayer. Look down with pity and compassion on all those who suffer from the burden of their sins. Take off that weight of self-conceit and self-satisfaction which clogs our steps upon the Heavenward road; which stops our progress, and makes into a temptation even what Thy love has wrought within our souls. Keep us from all that "praying with ourselves" which leads us into listening to our prayers as if in them were some new merit. Guard us from all presumption in Thy presence, lest when Thou comest and would sup with us, Thou see beneath our outward friendly seeming lack of faith, and doubt, and dark cold-heartedness. Save us from all self-trust and exaltation, that we do no despite to Thy grace, or dare deny Thy honour. Make us meek and lowly in our hearts, that we may be exalted in Thine own due time. Teach us to fear and watch, that we fail not in lowly trust, or check the free incoming of Thy grace, and shut our souls out from the light and guidance of Thy Wisdom. Defend us with Thy watchful care, that we be found not off our guard, and fall an easy prey to him who watches to destroy our souls. Let no increase of swelling pride destroy our growth in grace, lest we exalt ourselves before Thee and against Thee, and so lose that glory Thou didst win for us by Thy humiliation. Hear us, Lord, for Thy Name's sake. Amen.

* Gos. 17th Sunday after Trinity

THE CLEANSING OF THE TEN LEPERS.

* S. LUKE XVII. 11-19.

ALMIGHTY and most Merciful Father, Who in Thy Holy Word hast concluded all men, Jews and Gentiles, under sin, that all the world may stand as guilty before Thee: Justly have we been shut out from the City of God by Him Who bears the keys of the House of David. But praised be Thy Holy Name, where sin hath abounded, there did Thy grace much more abound; and Thou art the same Lord, rich unto all that call upon Thee in the mercies of Jesus Christ. We thank Thee that to us Thou hast opened out abundant entrance into all the blessings of Salvation. Cleansed in Thy holy laver of Regeneration, we have the pledge and promise of all spiritual blessings. Renew in us, O Lord, Thy gifts of grace continually, that we may go forward in the way of faith, in diligent and constant use of Thy Holy Word and Sacraments, and all appointed means of grace; despising nothing that Thou hast ordained; accepting humbly all Thy goodness through the channels of Thy Church. Remind us ever of those sins from which we have been purged, that we may live before Thee thankful lives, rejoicing in the works of faith, and labour of love, and patience of Hope in Jesus Christ our Lord. Prevent us with Thy grace lest we be of those "many who are called," who neglect to make their calling and election sure; who open wide their mouths to take Thy gifts of grace and healing, and remain unthankful, speechless, all their senses stopped with very plenty of Thy goodness. Let not ingratitude dry up the dew of mercy and the streams of grace, but quicken us that we may render unto Thee the praises of our lips, the offering of our lives, in thankfulness for Thy great mercy to us through our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

* Gos. 14th Sunday after Trinity.

THE HEALING OF THE DAUGHTER OF THE WOMAN OF CANAAN.

* S. MATT. XV. 21-28.

O THOU, Who art a "God that hidest Thyself," from the wicked in judgment, from the weak in mercy; to whom our Saviour Christ, the suffering Son of Man, did "cry, but Thou heardest not, O Thou worship of Israel:" We know that for our sakes He suffered thus the silence and averting of Thy countenance. Help us, O Lord, and give us faith to penetrate that veil which seems to hide Thy mercy; to come near to Him, Whose name is like the ointment poured forth; Whose very sweetness still bewrayeth itself. When we draw near to Thee in pity or in sorrow from our loved ones, or contrition for our sins, and the Word has no word, the Good Physician still withholds His remedies, the fountain of Thy grace is sealed; withdraw not utterly, O Lord, lest we despair, but grant us some reviving drops of that great shower of Thy Love which one day shall restore a thirsting world. Teach fainting, troubled hearts to hear Thy hidden "Yea" beneath the seeming "Nay." We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs beneath Thy Table; outcasts of Israel, how dare we approach Thy presence? But Thou art the the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy; Thou art not slack concerning Thy promise, but long-suffering to usward. O grant that Christ may come and dwell within our hearts by faith, and fill us with patience and hope, perseverance and humility, that we may find in Him, the Son of God, our Saviour. Number us at last among Thy children, who have Thy Name written in their foreheads, and who bear the likeness of Thy First-born Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

* Gos. 2nd Sunday in Lent.

THE HEALING OF ONE DEAF AND DUMB

* S. MARK VII. 31-37.

O MERCIFUL JESUS, Who by Thy most blessed Name dost declare Thyself to be the Saviour of all men; Thou great High Priest, Who art touched with the feeling of our infirmities: Have mercy on us, who have ears to hear and hear not, tongues to speak and praise not, for our hearts are dull and faith is weak. Withdraw us if it need be from the tumult of this busy world, and all engrossing cares and pleasures of this life, that in the solitude and silence of Thy holy Presence we may know our weakness and seek anxiously Thy grace and health. As Thou didst lead aside Thy chosen people in the wilderness that they might hear Thy Holy Law, so take our souls apart from this world's din and all its vain distractions, that in stillness we may hear Thy gentle Voice of tender love. Pierce through this veil of dulness that shuts out the pitying accents of Thy mercy. Soften with the unction of Thy grace our tongues fast bound in faithless impotence. Help us to use with diligence all means vouchsafed us in Thy Church for restoration, that with sighs of penitence and prayer the new man may be perfected in us. The wreck which sin had wrought, the foul deformity that changed the features of the Man Thou hadst created "very good," wrung from Thee sighs and groanings of the spirit while on earth; So now, O blessed Lord, Thy Spirit maketh "intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." Awake our hearts, that we may hear and know Thee; open Thou our lips, that we may praise Thy Holy Name, and go rejoicing on our way, led by Thy Hand, and following in Thy footsteps, strengthened by Thy gracious love, until we come to Thine Eternal Rest. Amen.

* Gos. 12th Sunday after Trinity.

THE MIRACULOUS FEEDING OF FOUR THOUSAND.

* S. MARK VIII. 1-9.

O LORD JESU CHRIST, Who didst come down from Heaven to take upon Thyself our weaknesses, and to bestow on us Thy spiritual Strength; to seek things human and to give us things divine; to receive Thyself injustice, and endow with dignity; to languish under weariness, and still restore to health: Bear with us in our unbelief and sad forgetfulness of Thee. Too soon alas! we lose remembrance of Thy frequent mercies; Thy deliverance from former needs soon fadeth from our minds; at each recurring time of need the wonders of Thy grace are all forgotten as though they had never been. The waves of the Red Sea have been divided for Thy people to pass through, and when we reach the shore we murmur and presume to ask, "Is the Lord among us or not?" Thou mayest have covered all the camp with food, yet even Moses must despair of finding flesh for all this multitude. Increase our little faith, O Lord, "Who openest Thine Hand and fillest all things living with plenteousness." Enrich our confidence with memories of Thy faithfulness and love. Heal our infirmities and all the frailties and diseases of our souls. Bring us around Thy blessed Feet, where Thou dost sit upon the holy Mount of God; for nowhere may our sins be cleansed as there; nowhere such holy words received; nowhere such holy joys renewed, as at those Feet where Mary sate. And lest we faint upon the way, feed us continually with the precious Bread from Heaven, the everlasting Food of angels, in the strength of which we may proceed rejoicing on our way, until we come unto the Heavenly City where Thou reignest evermore. Amen.

* Gos. 7th Sunday after Trinity.

THE OPENING OF THE EYES OF THE BLIND AT BETHSAIDA.

S. MARK VIII. 22-26.

O MERCIFUL GOD, incline Thy gracious ears to our prayers, and enlighten our hearts with the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may know and feel the fulness of Thy love. Not of ourselves, nor in the vigour of a perfect faith did we first come to Thee, but helplessly, and brought by faith of others, did we first approach the holy Font, wherein we were adopted as Thy children, and made members of Thy Christ. Frail, weak, and sinful, Thou didst not reject us, but in Thy divine compassion didst anoint us with Thy Holy Spirit, giving us a glimpse of future glory, teaching us to long for more. Not all at once are all illusions of our sinful nature cleared away; not all at once are old confusions put to flight. Much of our hesitating blindness still remains, and many mists impair our vision for a season; but, O Father of Lights, do Thou in mercy chase away the darkness from our eyes, that we may see Thee clearly, and adore. Thou wilt not break the bruised reed, nor quench the smoking flax! Great Author of our Faith, be Thou its Finisher, and make our souls partakers of the bright illuminations of Thy grace. Thou sendest "first the blade, and then the ear, and then the full corn in the ear," thus bring us on unto perfection. We see Thee now "as through a dim glass, darkly;" now we know Thee but in part; O God, Who didst command the Light to shine out of darkness, shine into our hearts, and make them pure, that we may see the full Light of Thy glory in the face of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

THE HEALING OF THE LUNATIC CHILD.

S. MARK IX. 14-29.

O MOST Loving Jesus Christ, leave not Thy weak and helpless children to themselves here in the wilderness, for in Thy absence our strength falls away; even as when Moses and Joshua withdrew themselves from the people Israel, the enemy prevailed. Reveal Thyself to us, O Lord, but not as Moses, whose face shone with threatening glory, and the awful glare of Sinai's laws and lightnings still upon him, but with face and garments glistening with the glories of Thy Mount of Blessing, shew Thyself; that we may run to Thee rejoicing to behold the beauty of Thy love, the graces of Thy mercy. So shall the baffled enemy fly from our souls fast bound so long in bondage vile; and though the agony of our repentance and struggles of our spirit well-nigh prevail to cast us lifeless at Thy Feet, stretch out Thy loving Hand, and bid us rise to health and strength of spiritual life. Drive far away all faithless questionings of Thine Almighty power and love. We know Thee Who Thou art, Eternal Son of God, our Saviour. Lord, we believe; help Thou our unbelief. Convey to us Thy full regenerating power. Crown Thy saving grace by bringing back the souls Thou lovest to their Heavenly Father's care. Endue us with Thy power from on high, that in Thy strength we may resist all powers of this world, the flesh, and Satan, that would keep us in the pains of sin. Make us as dead unto the world, but unto Thee alive for evermore, Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

THE STATER IN THE FISH'S MOUTH.

S. MATT. XVIII. 24-27.

O LORD JESU CHRIST, Who didst come on earth to make Atonement for the sins of men; to give Thy life as a ransom for many, not as one that needed expiation for Himself: We praise and bless Thy holy Name that Thou hast taught us by Thine own example to "provide things honest in the sight of all men." Though Thou owedst nothing, Thou didst condescend to pay all, for Thyself and us. As Thy Virgin Mother made the offering of turtle doves, although she needed no purification from that sacred birth; as Thou, O Christ, submitted Thy pure Body to the rite of circumcision, though Thou didst not need mortification, and to Baptism in the Jordan, though Thou hadst no sins to wash away; so didst Thou condescend to pay the token of redemption, standing Thyself between the dead and living, that the plague might be stayed. We praise Thee, at Whose word the ravens fed Elijah, Lord of all nature, having nothing, yet possessing all things! As Thou didst freely pay a claim that could not be from Thee due as of right, in order to avoid offence, so teach us, Lord, to take heed lest by any means we use that liberty wherewith Thou hast made us free as a stumbling-block to them that are weak. So guide us by Thy Holy Spirit that we willingly may do for Thy Sake more than even law requires, giving none offence, "neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor unto the Church of God." Make us revere and learn Thy meekness which would pay the ransom for Thyself, together with Thy sinful servant. Teach us to love that charity divine, which joins in every act true loving-kindness unto men; and bring us to adore that mystery whereby Thou dost unite us to Thyself, Redeemer of Thy Church. Amen.

THE RAISING OF LAZARUS.

S. JOHN XI. 21-42

O LOVING and compassionate Jesus, who didst love Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus: So dost Thou love each penitent and trusting soul, which turns to Thee, its Saviour. We have but to state our needs to Thee, and Thou wilt hear. however distant. Though Thou seem to tarry, teach us to accept that discipline of love divine, for not till every other aid has failed to our weak faith, wilt Thou come in and manifest Thy power. When darkness thickens round us, raise our eyes to Thee, who makest ever darkness to be light. Exalt and purify our clinging love for earthly objects, that in a present Saviour we may find our loved and lost. In Thee is victory o'er the grave. In Thee is Life eternal. Grant us that living faith which makes death not to be death, only a short passage to eternal life. Bring us to rest upon Thy tender sympathy, whose tears did open out a spring of comfort in the Home at Bethany; whose tears did flow, a stream of blessing to a whole Land from Jerusalem; whose precious Blood upon the cross became a sea of healing for all Nations. Thrice didst Thou raise the dead, so raise all sinners from the death of sin unto the life of righteousness; not only those who early fall away, but those who yield a fuller harvest of continued sin, and chiefly those who long have lain in trespass and corruption. Roll away the heavy stone of evil lusts and habits; loose our bands of sin, and bid us presently sit down with Thee as welcome guests around that Heavenly Banquet, where there enters nothing that defileth, but the House is filled with the fragrance of Thy justifying grace. Amen.

THE OPENING OF THE EYES OF TWO BLIND MEN NEAR JERICHO.

S. LUKE XVIII. 35-43.

O LORD, Thou Son of David, hear our cry, and leave us not, lest we should lose our way in this world's throng. Around us rise up difficulties, evil thoughts, and doubts. Nay, even those who bear Thy Name sometimes would check our eagerness and blame our earnestness when we would cry to Thee. Lord, suffer not our faith to fail, whatever obstacles oppose; but make the pressure kindle it the more, that it be not endangered in security, but grow the more secure in danger. O Son of Man, Eternal Saviour, have compassion on Thy servants, blinded with the sins that rise within us. Thou, who art the Power, the Word, the Wisdom of Almighty God, lay but Thy finger on our eyes, and all the ignorance and darkness shall flee hence, and straightway we shall see Thee, and so follow Thee who gave us light. Help us to cast aside all works of darkness, and all those things that were gain to us, teach us to count but loss, so we may win Thee, and be found in Thee, clothed in the righteousness which is of God by faith. Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, lead Thou us on toward the mark of the prize of our high calling. Guide us continually, that with that spiritual sight by which, through Thee, we see, we may at last behold our God, together with those blessed ones who are found "pure in heart," and therefore look on Him in glory evermore. Amen.

THE BARREN FIG TREE.

* S. MATTHEW XXI. 8-12.

O LORD, Who, coming to Thy passion, didst condemn the barren fig tree, yet we know that Thou canst not, through ignorance, seek fruit where there is none, nor yet require it unjustly where it cannot be: Enlighten then our minds and hearts, that we may learn the secrets of Thy Wisdom. Thou camest from those blessed mansions where alone is true obedience, and sought upon Thy chosen Zion for the fruits of righteousness, and found none, but an outward show of rites and vain traditions. For three years Thou didst dress it, interceding with the Father, but the axe was laid unto the root, it bare no fruit, and therefore no fruit shall be thereon for ever. But Thou hast grafted on the true and living Tree, this Branch, Thy Holy Church, a fig tree whose leaf shall not wither, and beneath whose shadow shall the true Nathaniel in watching and in prayer await Thy coming. Like that of old, Thy Church has even now a goodly show of outward gifts, of sacraments, and means of grace, abundant leaves of great professions. Help us, Lord, that we may therewith bring forth goodly fruits of righteousness. Enrich us by Thy grace, that we may bear those fruits for which Thou hungerest; the first-fruit love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, faith, meekness, temperance, all goodness, righteousness, and truth. That when Thou comest, in Thy day of visitation, we may hear no sentence of Thy righteous wrath, but may be gathered in unto Thy love and bliss at Thy right hand for evermore. Amen.

* Gos. 1st Sunday in Advent.

THE HEALING OF MALCHUS' EAR.

S. LUKE XXII. 49-51

LORD JESUS CHRIST, Who didst descend from Heaven not to do Thine own Will, but the Will of Him that sent Thee, and didst freely of Thyself give up Thy life a ransom for Thy people: Teach us by Thy example to submit ourselves to Him, Who willeth not that any man should perish, but that all should come to everlasting life. Keep us from extravagance of zeal, lest while we deprecate the evils that surround Thy Church, we "Savour not the things that be of God, but those that are of men." Help us to see in all our trials the control and ordering of God, that we may learn that true submission which could say, "The cup my Father gave, shall I not drink it." Temper our zeal with wisdom, lest our seeming righteous wrath should end as did S. Peter's, who denied Thee thrice. Remind us ever that to Thee alone belongeth vengeance, for "The Lord is in His holy Temple, before Him let all the earth keep silence." When the wicked, even Thine enemies, came upon Thee to eat up Thy flesh, they stumbled and fell; the soldiers in their hour of triumph felt Thy power, "They went backward, and fell to the ground." Thou didst not need the sword of Peter, nor the swords of twelve Apostles, at Whose beck did wait the Angel Hosts. O grant us to adore the mightiness of love, which saw in Malchus even a subject for Thy healing mercy. Give us such conformity to Thy divine forbearance, that when Thou comest "in the glory of the Father, and with all the Holy Angels," we may be received as Thine, and rest for ever safe and happy in Thy love. Amen.

THE SECOND MIRACULOUS DRAUGHT OF FISHES.

* S. John XXI. 1-23.

O SON OF GOD, The Word in the beginning, ere Thou camest from the Father: We thank Thee for Thy Gospel, which reveals to us the ruling of Thy kingdom now Thou hast returned to the Father. Thy sorrowing disciples learned how "heaviness may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." So cheer us, Lord, through all the troubles that beset us now, with Thy beloved presence. When we see Thy Church divided, broken up by schisms, losing many through the rents that once were gathered in, remind us of that Church no longer threatened by the stormy waves, but drawing safe to shore the fulness of Thy harvest, with unbroken meshes now, for all there are so many, and no longer cumbered with the deadly weight of evil-livers, false professors, unbelievers, well-nigh unto ship-wreck. Now jealousies and envies, doubts, and sad misgivings rise amongst the small and great, but in that final drawing of the net all shall be found great; for all who reach that Haven shall be "equal to the Angels." Give us courage, Lord, and confidence of perfect faith. Forgive us, who have many times denied Thee, and multiply as many times our love; that, guided by Thy grace and strength, we may with Peter tread the rougher paths to certain victory, or, if it please Thee, like Thy loved disciple, in a life of peace and love, await Thy coming. Looking ever to that blessed Feast prepared by Thee for all Thy faithful servants, whom Thou shalt make to sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and with Jacob ,in Thy Heavenly rest. Amen.

* Gos. S. John Evangelist.

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EPISTLE I.

ROM. V. 1-11.

Justification and Peace.

O HEAVENLY FATHER, in Whose Sight we have been made righteous through the merits of our Lord Jesus Christ by faith: Strengthen that faith that we may find our peace in Thee, and grant that we may stand and continue firmly in that state of grace and love and salvation to which, through the same Christ, and by means of the same faith, we received admission at our Baptism; that we may ever rejoice in the sure hope of partaking in the glory of Thine Eternal Kingdom. Grant us Thy grace that we may find joy not only in our hopes for the future, but also in our sufferings of the present time, for we know that even these sufferings help us towards the accomplishment of our hopes. So rule our suffering that it may work in us patience, and that patience may furnish proof of the reality of our faith and its acceptance with Thee. So approve our faith that it may make us hopeful, and our hope that it make us cheerful and brave. Give us thus to know that Thy great love has been freely and bountifully poured into our hearts through Thy Holy Spirit given to us. While we were yet sinners were we pardoned and reconciled to Thee by the death of Christ; much more, now that we have been reconciled, shall we be saved through the resurrection in which we put our faith, and His Life which we share. Keep us in this faith, O Lord, and help us in this life of Christ, that we may glory and rejoice in Thy favour, through the same our Saviour. Amen.

EPISTLE II.

* ROM. VI. 3-13.

Death unto Sin.

O HEAVENLY FATHER, we thank Thee that Thou hast admitted us into Thy Family by the Holy Sacrament of Baptism. Give us grace to remember, that being baptized into Christ, we were baptized into His death, and so engaged to die unto sin, as He did for sin, and to live to Him who died for us and rose again; that we were buried with Him by baptism under the water, into a conformity to His death, which put His body under the earth, in order that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, even so we also, thus dead in baptism, should rise with Him, and walk in newness of life. Grant us a joyful and well-grounded hope that, as we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection, and rise to a life immortal, as He hath done. Teach us, O Lord, to die more and more really unto sin, remembering that our old sinful nature was crucified with Him, in order that those lusts of the body which subject us to sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we might not serve sin; for the sake of Him who bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead unto sin, might live unto righteousness through the same Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

* Epis. 6th Sunday after Trinity.

EPISTLE III.

* ROM. VI. 15-23.

The Service of Righteousness.

O BLESSED JESUS, grant that as Thou didst die once for all for us, and dost now live an eternal life to the glory of God, so we may indeed reckon ourselves dead unto sin, but living unto God through Thee, our Lord. Make us watchful, therefore, lest sin should get dominion in these mortal bodies of ours, that we should obey the lusts thereof; neither let us yield our members any longer as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin, but enable us by Thy grace to yield up ourselves entirely to the service of God, as those who are alive with Christ from the dead, and to yield our members as instruments of righteousness unto God. We cannot at the same time serve God and mammon; keep ever before us the fruit of each, the end of each, the wages of each. The fruit of sin is shame, the end and wages, death; the fruit of righteousness is holiness and happiness, the end and wages everlasting life. Grant us an earnest desire to be made holy instead of to be made ashamed, and instead of death to have life eternal. Enable us to do good, not grudgingly or of necessity, but cheerfully, joyfully, affectionately; serving out of our love to Thee, O Lord. The more we believe in God's goodness, the more do Thou incline us to strive to be good like Him. The more fully we are persuaded that Thou didst die for us, the more heartily make us endeavour to live unto Thee, for Thy Name's sake. Amen.

* Epis. 7th Sunday after Trinity.

EPISTLE IV.

ROM. VII. 18-25.

The Law of the Flesh and of the Mind.

O LORD, we know and confess that in us, that is in our flesh, dwelleth no good thing, for to will that which is good is present with us, but to perform that which is good we find not strength by nature. For, alas! we find that the good we would do, we do not, but the evil which Thy law forbids and we would not do, that, being overpowered by the flesh, we do. But, O gracious Lord, Thou knowest that to some extent at least we delight in the law of God after the inward man, and that at times our minds are pleased with its good and holy precepts. But we see another law of the flesh in our members warring against the law of the mind, and bringing us into captivity to the law of sin which is in our members. And being thus enslaved to that sin which renders us obnoxious to death, the wages of it, we are even forced to cry out, "O wretched sinners that we are, who shall deliver us from the body of sin, which worketh this death?" Yet, O good Lord, from this depth of woe, calling to mind Thy great mercies, we will yet thank Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord, that Thou hast sent Him to deliver and redeem us from that death, by His most precious blood. Amen.

EPISTLE V.

* ROM. XII. 1-8.

Reasonable and Humble Service.

O LORD, our Heavenly Father, Giver of all grace: Grant that we, and all who call themselves Christians, may be prevailed upon by the remembrance of Thine infinite mercies vouchsafed to us, to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto Thee, which is our reasonable service. Suffer us not to be conformed to the evil customs of this wicked world, but transformed into other creatures, even into the image of Thy beloved Son our Lord, by the daily renewing of our minds by Thy Holy Spirit. So bring us to discern, and approve, and obey that good and acceptable and perfect will of God which is revealed to us in Thy Holy Word. Teach every one among us, however gifted by Thy grace, not to think of himself more highly that he ought to think, but to esteem himself humbly, truly, and soberly, as Thou hast dealt to every man the measure of faith. Guide those who are ordained to exhort in Thy Church, to wait earnestly and diligently on their gift of exhortation; those that give, to do it with singleness of heart and ungrudging liberality. Those that rule over us in Church or state, guide Thou in justice and love. And help us all, as we have received mercy undeserved from Thee, to show mercy with cheerfulness to all around us, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

* Epis. 1st Sunday after Epiphany.

EPISTLE VI.

* Rom. xii. 9-13.

True Christian Charity.

Graft, O Lord, in our hearts such a spirit of true Christian charity, that our love may be without dissimulation, not in word only, but in deed and in truth. Help us to abhor that which is evil, and to cleave to that which is good. Teach us to be kindly affectioned one to another, with brotherly love, not only bearing such a kindness to one another as common humanity calls for, but such as becomes members of Thy family and brethren of Jesus Christ. Make us to live and act so as to prefer one another in honour, being not slothful either in Thy concerns, or those of others, or the work of our own salvation; but fervent in spirit, ardently and zealously engaging in Thy service, and that of our brethren, as knowing that we are then best serving Thee. Make us ever to rejoice in hope of eternal life, being patient in whatever tribulations Thou mayest see good to send us, continuing instant in Prayer, that we may stand fast in the faith of Thy Holy Church, and have a seasonable deliverance out of all our troubles. And withal give us grace that we may be ever ready to distribute to the necessities of our brethren in Christ, and to the support and extension of Thy Church and Kingdom throughout the world, for Jesus Christ, His sake. Amen.

* Epis. 2nd Sunday after Epiphany.

EPISTLE VII.

* ROM. XII. 14-21.

Christian Sympathy and Peaceableness.

O GOD OF LOVE, incline our hearts to bless and pray for them which hate and persecute us, and that we may never be prevailed upon to return cursing for cursing, under any provocations whatever; to rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep, as sympathizing members of the same body; to be of one mind one towards another, wishing the same good to them that we desire for ourselves; minding not high things, but condescending to men of low estate; looking upon all, even the poorest and lowest around us, as brethren and sisters in Christ Jesus our Lord. Guard us from becoming over-wise in our own conceits, and selfish in seeking our own advancement only. Grant that we may never be prevailed upon by our own evil passions to recompense to anyone evil for evil, but that we may provide things honourable in the sight of all men, living as much as possible, and as far as lieth in us, peaceably with all men. Keep us from all ungovernable rage and anger, that we may not try to avenge ourselves, but rather give place to Thy just judgment, remembering that it is written, "Vengeance is mine. I will repay, saith the Lord." And if our enemy should be in any distress of mind or suffering of body, or danger of evil, guide us by Thy Spirit of Love to succour and help him to the best of our power, that thus we be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

* Epis. 3rd Sunday after Epiphany.

EPISTLE VIII.

* ROM. XIII. 1-14.

Subjection to Law.

ALMIGHTY GOD, Who hast in Thy Divine Providence ordained the powers that be: Grant unto every soul among us a spirit of subjection to the higher powers, whether in Church or state. Guide the rulers whom Thou hast appointed over us so to use their authority, that they may deter from evil, while they encourage all good works. Teach us to render unto all their dues, tribute to whom tribute is due, custom to whom custom, fear to whom fear, honour to whom honour. Grant us grace so to order our life and conversation that no part of our duty to our neighbour be omitted; and make us ever mindful of that debt of love which we owe to all, that, working no ill to any, but loving one another even as Thou hast loved us, we may entirely fulfil Thy Holy law. Open our minds to a clear view of the time now passing away, that we may no longer sleep in sin and sloth, but may arise and make diligent use of that time which yet remains to us for the earnest working out of our salvation. Help us, gracious Lord, to cast off the works of darkness, and put on the whole armour of light, that we may walk honestly and upright as in the day and light of Thine all-seeing Eye; not in the dark and grovelling ways of the wicked and disobedient, in rioting and drunkenness, in lust and wantonness, in strife and envying. But clothe us with the virtues of our blessed Lord, that we may not expend our thoughts and cares upon the base indulgence of our fleshly appetites, but rather spend our strength in the pursuit of purity and holiness, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

[redacted] 4th Sunday after Epiphany.

EPISTLE IX.

ROM. XIV. 1-13.

Mutual Forbearance.

O GOD OF LOVE, grant us Thy true spirit of charity, that we be not prone to engage in disputes and arguments, but with kindness and gentleness endeavour to persuade those who are weak in the faith. Following the example of our blessed Lord, make us to abstain from censure and contempt of others; and when in doubtful matters and things indifferent they seem to oppose themselves, do Thou guide us in the ways of peace, and cause us to remember that to Thee alone must the account be rendered, and that thou alone canst search and judge the heart and conscience.

And while, as faithful and loving members of that branch of Thy Holy Catholic Church to which we belong, we observe the days and seasons as therein appointed for our soul's good, enable us to do all as unto Thee, with a pure and simple devotion to Thy service, and to Thy honour and glory. Defend, we pray Thee, our beloved Church and all its members from al malice and persecution of ignorant and wicked men; and shed abroad on all professors of the Name of Christ a spirit of mutual forbearance and charity, such as becomes those brethren, who shall one day stand together before the judgment seat of Christ. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for the sake of the same Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

EPISTLE X.

Rom. xiv. 16-23.

Serving in Love.

O Blessed Lord, who hast commanded us so to let our light shine before men, that when they see our good works they may be led to glorify the Giver of all grace and good: Enable us to do Thy will on earth in all love and charity and earnestness, that so our good may not be evil spoken of. Help us so to use our Christian liberty, that our actions and our words may not presumptuously provoke the scorn or blame of those that are without. And make us ever to remember that our right to the Kingdom of Heaven depends not on mere outward forms of godliness, but rather on our being found righteous in Christ. Make us in all things follow peace with all men, having inwardly the joy and peace of Thy Holy Spirit shed abroad within us; that so, in these things serving Thee, and striving ever after things which make for peace, and things wherewith we may edify one another, we may be found acceptable to Thee, and be approved of all good men. So lead us with Thy Spirit that in all the discipline of our religious life we may observe true charity, not eating or drinking anything out of pride or vain glory, whereby our brother stumbleth, or is offended, or made weak; insisting not on those things which are but of doubtful right; but whether we eat or drink, so guide us that we may do all as unto Thee, for Thy Name's Sake. Amen.

EPISTLE XI.

* ROM. XV. 1-13.

The Charity of Faith.

O LORD, we thank Thee for that strength of faith and earnest conviction of mind and soul, in which Thou hast vouchsafed to ground us, as members of Thy Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church: Grant us, we beseech Thee, this still higher grace, that in the spirit of Thy true charity, we may bear with the infirmities of those whose faith and knowledge may be weaker than our own; that we may endeavour each one to please his neighbour, not for the sake of a false and worldly peace, but for his good to edification. Thus may we prove ourselves true followers of the great example of our Saviour Christ, Who thought not of His own will, or liberty, or pleasure, but suffered the reproaches of all men to fall upon Him. O God of all patience and consolation, grant us to be like-minded one toward another, according to Christ Jesus. that we may with one mind and one mouth delight to glorify Thee, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ In Thee alone is our hope and trust; make us, we pray Thee, full of mutual peace. the spirit of good will. that we may shew the power of the Holy Spirit working in us charity and forbearance one towards another, and so increase our faith and hope with greater joy, for Jesus Christ His sake. Amen.

* Epis. 2nd Sunday in Advent.

EPISTLE XII.

ROMANS XVI. 17-27.

Stedfastness in the Truth.

PRESERVE, we beseech Thee, O Lord, the members of Thy flock from the wiles and dangerous doctrines and deceits of those who, for their own selfish ends, and to indulge their carnal pride, stir up divisions in Thy Holy Church, and set themselves against the doctrines we have learned. Strengthen the faith of all the poor, and ignorant, and simple, that they may withstand the specious words and fair speeches that would tempt them into careless unbelief; continuing simple to that which is evil, and growing wise unto that which is good. O Thou, Who art the lover and promoter of peace and concord in Thy Church, may it please Thee, according to Thy promise, to bruise the head of Satan underneath our feet, that so Thy Church may serve Thee in all quietness, and unity, and peace. O God, Who hast revealed unto us that mystery of Thy love in Christ, which had been kept secret since the world began, but which Thou hast made plain to us in Thy Holy Word; send forth, we pray Thee, the power of the Holy Ghost, and stablish, strengthen, settle, more and more Thy Church in the blessed Faith of Thy dear Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, that thus we may extend to all the nations of the world Thy Holy Truth. To Thee, God only wise, be glory, through the same, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

EPISTLE XIII.

1 Cor. iii. 11-23.

The Spirit of Truth.

Pour down, we pray Thee, O God, upon the ministers and stewards of Thy Holy Church the Spirit of Thy grace, that they may teach Thy way in truth. Help them to build upon the one Foundation, Jesus Christ, the goodly stones of Thy Temple in true doctrine and godly discipline,that they may confidently stand even the searching fires of the judgment day, and reap their full reward. We thank Thee for the blessed gift of Thy Holy Spirit, which dwelleth in us; grant that we may never quench that holy flame, but cherish it within our souls, that thus they may be cleansed and purified, and made fit Temples for so great a Guest. Remembering that we are bought with the precious Blood of Christ, and sealed by the Holy Ghost, teach to use with all due diligence the means of grace vouchsafed to us in Thy Holy Church, that thus we may be brought to know Thee as our only God, and to despise the wisdom of the wicked world, which is but foolishness before Thee; and to look upon this life as but the battle ground where we have to win our crowns—on health, as but an instrument for serving Thee—on death, as but a means of glorifying Thee—on Christ, as Thine, and ours in Thee, through that same blessed Jesus, our Redeemer. Amen.

EPISTLE XIV.

* 1 Cor. x. 1-13.

Strength in the Sacraments.

Almighty Father, Who didst safely lead Thy people Israel through the Red Sea, figuring thereby Thy Holy Baptism; and by bread from Heaven, and water from the rock sustained them through their weary pilgrimage; as even now by the true Bread from Heaven, and the Fountain of Living Waters, the Body and Blood of Christ, Thou dost vouchsafe to nourish all Thy faithful people: Grant us grace that we may learn by their example how to walk as pilgrims and sojourners through the wilderness of this world. Keep us that we lust not, as they also lusted, after evil things; nor give ourselves to wicked satisfactions of the flesh; nor yet tempt Christ, as they did also tempt; nor murmur at Thy providence and godly discipline of Thy Church; but in all things, still humbly trusting to Thy love, and not in any wisdom of our own, enable us to look to Thee in all our trials and temptations, knowing surely Thou wilt never leave nor forsake Thy faithful servants, but wilt, with the temptation, make a way to escape, that we may be able to bear it. Rebuke the adversary of our souls, who tempts us from without. Gird up our feeble spirits with the power of Thy grace. Guide all things for our good by Thy protecting care; and purify our hearts and keep them Thine, for Jesus Christ His Sake. Amen.

* Epis. 9th Sunday after Trinity.

EPISTLE XV.

1 COR. XII. 12-27.

Oneness in Christ.

ALMIGHTY and Everliving God, we most heartily thank Thee that Thou hast made us very members incorporate in the mystical body of Thy Son, which is the blessed Company of all faithful people; and that we are also heirs through hope of Thy eternal Kingdom, by the merits and most precious death and passion of Thine own beloved Son. And we most humbly beseech Thee, O Heavenly Father, so to assist us with Thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as Thou hast prepared for us to walk in, through the strength of Thy most Holy Spirit. O Thou Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, send down Thy grace that we may lay to heart most earnestly the dangers we are in by our divisions. Take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatsoever else may hinder us from godly union and concord, that as there is but one Body, and one Spirit, and one Hope of our calling; one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism; one God and Father of us all, so we may henceforth be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of Truth and Peace, of Faith and Charity; and may with one mind and one mouth glorify Thee. Grant that we, as living members of the One Body, the Church of Christ may be so bound together in mutual love and honour, that there be no schism among us, but that we may have the same care one of another, suffering and rejoicing one with another in all things, through the same our loving Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

EPISTLE XVI.

* 1 Cor. xiii.

Charity.

"Almighty and Everlasting God, give unto us the increase of Faith, Hope, and Charity; and that we may obtain that which Thou dost promise, make us to love that which Thou dost command, through Jesus Christ our Lord. O God, Who hast taught us that all our doings without Charity are nothing worth, send Thy Holy Ghost, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of Charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before Thee: Grant this for Thine only Son, Jesus Christ's sake." Help us, by Thy grace, to bear patiently the wrongs we may have to suffer; to be kind and gentle even to those who oppose us; to be content with our own, and still not boastful of Thy gifts; to behave ourselves with meekness and true courtesy to all. Teach us to seek the good of others rather than our own; to preserve a quiet and peaceable temper; to abstain from hasty judgments, or imputing evil motives to our brethren; to rejoice and labour truly ever in the cause of Thy Holy Truth. Fill us with that Love which filleth Christ our Head, that we may bear all things in a meek and lowly spirit, and be ready to believe in good rather than suspicious of evil; to hope the best for all men, and to endure unto the end, as faithful and loving members of Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

* Epis. Quinquagesima.

EPISTLE XVII.

* GAL. V. 13-26.

Christian Liberty.

O LORD, we thank Thee for that Christian liberty wherewith we have been called; direct us that we pervert not that liberty into an opportunity for indulging the sinful lusts of the flesh, but rather in mutual love be even as slaves to one another. And while we are careful to fulfil the first Table of the Law, by loving Thee with all our heart, and mind, and strength, give us grace that we may also fulfil the Second Table, by loving our neighbour as ourselves. Keep us from trying to consume and overpower one another in bitter strife and angry hatred, lest the result be, not the victory of either side, but the destruction of both. Enable us to live and act by the rule of the Spirit, and in the strength of Thy grace, that there be no danger of falling under the dominion of the lusts of the flesh. For we know that our old corrupt nature lusteth ever against the Holy Spirit which Thou hast given us, and the Spirit striveth against the flesh, so that we cannot without Thy grace do the things that we would. Help us, therefore, to yield ourselves up to the guidance of Thy grace, that we may thereby escape the slavery of the flesh, and, as true and living branches of the Vine, may bring forth the blessed fruits of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, against which there is no law. Grant this, O Lord, for Jesus Christ His sake. Amen.

Epis. 14th Sunday after Trinity.

EPISTLE XVIII.

GAL. VI. 1-10.

Spiritual Ministrations.

GRANT, O Lord, to the Governors and Spiritual Pastors of Thy Church Thy gracious help, that they, living in the Spirit, may walk in the Spirit of Thy Holy Love, and exercise the discipline of Thy Holy Church in the spirit of meekness. Help us to bear one another's burdens in the strength of Thy divine charity, that thus we may fulfil the Law of Christ. Pour out upon all the members of Thy Church the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, that they may minister bountifully and ungrudgingly in all good things to the necessities of those whom Thou hast set over them for their guidance and direction. Thou knowest our means, and according as we use those means for the support of Thy servants, and the extension of Thy Church, Thou wilt accordingly repay, for as we sow so shall we reap. Help us to sow, not to the indulgence of our flesh, but spiritually, and by the Holy Spirit of grace, that we may reap a spiritual harvest, which shall endure for ever. Suffer us not to tire or lose heart in doing all that is good and honourable, knowing that when the wheat is separated from the chaff, in the Harvest of the Great Day of Judgment, if we persevere and faint not, we shall inherit the glories of the Eternal Kingdom. Enable us, therefore, to make use of every opportunity we can find to work that which is good to all men, especially to those that are of the Household of Faith, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

EPISTLE XIX.

* EPHES. III. 14-21.

Spiritual Strength.

O GOD, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of Whom the whole family in Heaven and in earth is named, since angels in Heaven and saints on earth are alike Thy children: Unto Thee do we bow our knees in prayer, that Thou wouldest be pleased, according to the riches of Thy glory, to grant that we may be still more strengthened with might by Thy Holy Spirit in the inner man, for the spiritual warfare in which we are engaged. Strengthen us that we may fight manfully against the world, the flesh, and the devil, and continue Thy faithful soldiers unto our life's end. Implant the Spirit of the Blessed Jesus in the temple of our hearts by faith, that, being firmly rooted and grounded in love to Thee, Who didst send Thy Son to die for us, we may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, of this mysterious love of Thine towards us; and that we may be able also to know the love of Christ, which in its full extent surpasseth knowledge, and thus be filled with all the fulness of God. And now unto Thee, Who art able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think, according to the Holy Ghost which worketh in us; unto Thee be ascribed all glory in the Church, through Jesus Christ, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

* Epis. 16th Sunday after Trinity.

EPISTLE XX.

* EPHES. IV. 20-32.

Marks of the New Man.

GRANT, O good Lord, that we may so learn Christ, and so receive the truth as it is in Jesus, that we may put off all those sinful habits to which by our corrupt nature we are so inclined, and be renewed daily by fresh supplies of Thy Holy Spirit; that so we may put on that new and purified nature which after the image of God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Help us to put away all lying, that we may speak truth with our neighbours, remembering that we are all members one of another. If anything should provoke us to anger, keep us from sinful and unholy passion, lest the sun go down upon our wrath. Strengthen us by Thy grace, that we may never give way to the temptations of the devil. Help us to labour honestly, working with our hands the things which are good; that we may have to give to him that needeth. Set a watch before our mouths, that no corrupt communication may proceed therefrom, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. Never let us grieve that Spirit of God whereby in our Baptism we were sealed unto the day of redemption. Take from us, O Lord, all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, with all malice; and enable us, and all the members of Thy Church and Family, to be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as Thou, O Father, for Christ's sake hast forgiven us. Amen.

* Epis. 19th Sunday after Trinity.

EPISTLE XXI.

* EPHES. V. 1-21.

Followers of God.

O GOD, enable us, we pray Thee, to be followers of Thy love, as becomes Thy dear children, and to walk in love as Christ hath also given us example; Who hath loved us, and given Himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to Thee, a dear, sweet-smelling savour. And, forasmuch as we do know that no unclean person, nor covetous man that is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the Kingdom of Heaven, keep us, we pray Thee, from all approaches to uncleanness or covetousness, that we may walk henceforth as best becomes Thy Saints. Uphold us, lest we get immersed in habits of filthiness, or foolish talking, or profane jesting, or lightly handling holy things, which ill befits our pure and holy calling in Christ Jesus; but employ us in the saintly work of giving thanks, not only with our lips, but in our lives. And, being children of light by faith in the Lord Jesus, teach us to walk as children of the light, bearing abundant fruits of Thy most Holy Spirit, in goodness, holiness, and truth, presenting unto Thee a sacrifice acceptable. O keep us from all carnal dissoluteness, and sinful excesses; fill us with Thy Holy Spirit, that, instead of vain and wicked conversation, we may love in preference to speak unto ourselves in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in our hearts unto the Lord; giving thanks always in all things to Thee, O God, Who art the Father of us all, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

* Epis. 3rd Sunday in Lent and 20th Sunday after Trinity.

EPISTLE XXII.

* EPHES. VI. 10-24.

The Warfare of Life.

O GOD, our Heavenly Father, Who hast mercifully called us into Thy Church, and hast caused us to be signed with the sign of the Cross in Baptism, in token that we should not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, and manfully to fight under His banner against sin, the world, and the devil, and to continue Christ's faithful soldiers and servants unto our life's end: Enable us, we beseech Thee, to wrestle not only against men like ourselves, who would draw us into sin; but also against our spiritual enemies, especially that prince of the powers of the air, whom Christ did overcome. Strengthen us in the power of Thy might. Endue us with all the armour which a Christian soldier needs. Gird up our loins with the broad belt of Truth, the Truth as it is in Jesus Cover our hearts with the breastplate of righteousness, the righteousness which is of God by faith. Defend our feet with the preparedness of the Gospel of Peace, that we may tread in safety the narrow and dangerous way. And in addition to all, give us the shield of faith, and cover our heads with the helmet of salvation, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Place ready to our hand the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, with which our great Deliverer Himself did conquer. Teach and help us ever to pray, with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, watching thereunto with all perseverance, not for ourselves alone, but for all Thy people, and especially for the ministers of Thy Church, that they may fearlessly make known the mysteries of the Gospel, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* Epis. 21st Sunday after Trinity.

EPISTLE XXIII.

* PHIL. II. 1-18.

Christ's Example.

O GOD, Who by Thy Holy Apostles hast filled us with consolations through their exhortations in Christ Jesus our Lord, and hast placed us in the Communion of the Holy Ghost, and given us the comfort of being loved and loving, the blessed gifts of kindness and of mercy: Grant us grace that we may be all of one mind and one accord; avoiding strife, vain-glory, and contentiousness; esteeming others better than ourselves, and thinking not alone of our own good, but that of others also. Conform us to the likeness of our Blessed Lord, Who put aside the outward glory of His Godhead, taking on Himself our nature, humbling Himself, yea, even to the death upon the Cross for our sakes; and help us in our lives, as with our lips, to witness and confess that He is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Prosper that work of the Holy Ghost within us, whereby we are daily delivered from the power of sin, and are made partakers of the Divine Nature; and so enable us to perfect our salvation, and put on the righteousness of Christ. Direct and rule our hearts in Thy most holy fear, that we may without murmurings or disputings do all things, as blameless before men, and harmless before Thee. O Heavenly Father, guide us as Thy children, without rebuke in the midst of a wicked world, letting our light so shine before men, and holding forth so bright and clear the word of life, that they may glorify Thee, and we may rejoice with joy unspeakable in the day of the Lord Jesus, for His sake. Amen.

* Epis. Sunday before Easter.

EPISTLE XXIV.

* PHIL. III.

Christ and His Righteousness

ALMIGHTY GOD, the Source of all our joy: Grant us Thy servants stedfastness of faith, that we may ever find in Thee our true rejoicing. Guard us against all false and foolish teachers, who, instead of building us on Christ the sure Foundation, and our only ground of confidence, would fain persuade us to rely on deadly doctrines of the flesh. Whatsoever things seem gain to us in this world let us still count but as loss compared with all the excellency of the knowledge of our Lord, Christ Jesus. Make us hold fast the beginning of our confidence unto the end, that so we may be made partakers of the same, our Saviour. Teach us to lay hold of our salvation in true union with Christ, with Faith as the condition, the Holy Sacraments as signs and seals, the Holy Ghost the Instrument, and Everlasting Righteousness the crown and triumph. Unite us in Communion with Thy Son, made members of His Body by the power of His Resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings. Grant that we may die to sin, and so be made partakers of His death, and rise again to new and spiritual life. Forgetting all that is behind, and reaching forth to things which are before, may we press forward to the prize of our high calling in Christ Jesus, that crown of glory that can never fade away. Direct our lives as citizens of that celestial Kingdom, whence we look for Jesus Christ, in sure and certain hope that He will one day change this mortal body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious Body, according to the mighty working, whereby He is able to subdue all things unto Himself. Hear these our prayers, O Lord, for the sake of the same Jesus Christ. Amen.

* Epis. 23rd Sunday after Trinity.

EPISTLE XXV.

* PHIL. IV. 1-13.

Christian Equanimity.

O MERCIFUL FATHER, Who hast revealed unto us the promise of everlasting glory in Christ Jesus our Lord: Grant us Thy grace, that we may evermore rejoice in that hope and trust in Thee. So fill our hearts with the expectation of His coming, that we may order our lives before men as those who look for His appearing. Keep us from being over-anxious and careful for anything in this world, and so enable us to cast all our care upon Thee, as knowing Thou carest for us; and teach us for everything to address ourselves to Thee, in prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving for Thy continual and unspeakable mercies. Thus shall Thy peace, the fruit of the Spirit, which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. And, that we may ever rejoice in this blessed peace, cherish, O Lord, in our thoughts and hearts whatsoever things are truthful, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report; all things that tend to holiness and Thy glory; that our conversation may be such as becometh the Gospel of Christ, and that we may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. Finally, O Lord, drive far from us all mistrust and impatience in the midst of this world's trials; and teach us in whatsoever state we may be placed by Thy providence therewith to be content. For Thou wilt order all things for our good. Thy grace is sufficient for us, and Thy strength is made perfect in our weakness. Grant us, therefore, Thy continual help, that, aided thus, we may have power to do all things, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

* Epis. 4th Sunday in Advent.

EPISTLE XXVI.

* COLOS. I. 1-15.

Share in the Inheritance.

O GOD, our Father, and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank Thee that Thou hast called us to the Faith in Christ Jesus, and for the hope which is laid up for us as a treasure in Heaven, through the truth of the blessed Gospel of Thy dear Son. Grant, we beseech Thee, that all who have known the grace of God in truth may bring forth fruits of Faith, and Holiness, and Love. Fill us with the knowledge of Thy Holy Will, in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that we may thus walk worthy of the Lord unto all well-pleasing, being fruitful in every good work; and whatsoever Thou findest our hands to do may we do it with our might, by prayer and earnest zeal earning for it the blessing of God and the good of men. Increase in us the fear and love and knowledge of Thy Holy Name. Strengthen us, according to Thy glorious power, with all the might of Thy Holy Spirit of Grace, and thus produce in us a patient endurance of Thy Holy Will, a long-suffering forbearance of the injuries of men, and joyfulness of heart even in the midst of tribulation. We thank Thee, O Father, Who in Thy love hast counted us sufficient to have a share in the glorious inheritance of Thy Church, and hast delivered us out of the power of sin and darkness, and translated us into the Kingdom of the Son of Thy love; in Whom and through Whom we have our redemption, and forgiveness of our sins, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* Epis. 24th Sunday after Trinity.

EPISTLE XXVII.

* COLOS. II. 6-23.

The Walk of Faith

ALMIGHTY GOD, we humbly thank Thee that Thou hast enabled us to receive Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us the Grace of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may be made to grow in Him, rooted as fruitful vines, and built up in Him as living stones of that Temple of which He is the corner-stone, and stablished in that faith wherein we have been taught, the Holy Faith once for all delivered to Thy Church. Defend us from the deceits of those who would lead us away from that faith, by the oppositions of philosophy and science falsely so called, after the teachings and traditions of men, and the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. We are in Him made full, through union with Him Who is Himself the Divine fulness, the Head of all principality and power. We thank Thee that in Christ we have received the true circumcision, being buried with Him in Baptism, wherein we were also raised with Him, through faith in the working of God, Who raised Him from the dead. Make us to know and feel that all our trespasses are forgiven in Him, that the accusations of the Law against us are nailed to His Cross, and for ever removed from us. Rejoicing in that Christian liberty wherewith He hath made us free, may we devote ourselves to Thy service, unfettered by the world and the flesh, and holding fast the Head, that as living members of His Body, the Church, we may ever go on unto perfection, increasing with the increase of God, through the same Jesus Christ. Amen.

* E. L. 2. Circumcision.

EPISTLE XXVIII.

* COLOS. III. 1-17.

Our Pattern.

O HEAVENLY FATHER, grant to us Thy children grace that we may shew forth in our lives that we were indeed raised with Christ in our Baptism to a new and holier life, by seeking after the aims, the joys, the occupations, and dispositions of Heaven above, where Christ reigneth for ever, our Mediator and Advocate. Direct our best affections to Heavenly, not earthly things; that, being dead with Christ to this world's lusts, our life may thus be hid with Him in Thee; and so, when He Who is our life shall appear, we also may appear with Him at His right hand in glory. Help us to keep under and strive successfully against those lusts and sins of the flesh which war against the soul, and which remain even in those that are regenerate; that we may put away entirely the old nature of sin; and live and grow up in the new nature which Thou hast given us, after the Image of God; bringing forth the fruits of charity, peace, and holiness. Lift up our hearts to Thy Example, that we may learn from Thee the ways of peace and love. Rule in our hearts, and fill them with the joy and peace which passeth understanding, that we may approach Thy Throne with our High Priest and Intercessor, pleading His sufficient Sacrifice; in Him as members of His very Body, sharing His life; and after Him, the Pattern and the Model which directs our walk; and under Him, our Captain and our King, obedient to His Word and serving Thee in all things for His Sake. Amen.

* Epis. Easter Day and 5th Sunday after Epiphany.

EPISTLE XXIX.

COLOS. III. 18—IV. 6.

Various Christian Duties.

O GOD, Who hast made us members of Thy family in Christ Jesus our Lord; Help us to fulfil our several duties in those states of life to which Thou hast called us. Teach us as wives, godly submission, as is fit in the Lord; as husbands, holy love, with gentleness and forbearance; as children, that obedience in all things which is pleasing unto Thee; as fathers, that wise and long-suffering guidance which will keep our children in the right way, and win their trust, and confidence, and love; as servants, cheerful and ungrudging obedience to all lawful commands, not with eye-service as men-pleasers, but in singleness of heart, as fearing Thee the God and Master above all; doing everything heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men, and looking to Thee, our Master in Heaven, for due recompense as faithful servants in Christ. With Thee is no respect of persons, and Thy heavenly judgment will redress this world's injustice. Thou wilt not spare the mighty for their grandeur, nor the mean for their littleness; Thou knowest how to deal with every soul, and in Thy love and justice we will ever trust. Open, Lord, a way to every heart, that so Thy Word may enter, and Thy Gospel flourish and abound, and bring forth fruits of Holinesss. And open Thou our lips that we may bear for Thee true witness to the world. So order all our words and ways, that we may bring no shame on Him whose Name we bear, but live to honour Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

EPISTLE XXX.

* 1 THESS. IV. 1-12.

Christian Perfection.

O LORD, Who hast taught us by Thy Holy Apostles how we ought to walk so as to please Thee; So guide us that we may the more and more progress in this our holy calling. We know not as we ought to know; we do not as we ought to do; we love not as we ought to love; nor serve as we are bound to serve. Train us, and lead us on, we pray Thee, to perfection. Shew to every one who names the name of Christ how he may keep his body in subjection, sanctified, preserved in honour. Thou hast not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness; O let us not make light of this Thy call, nor live as those who know not Thee. Subdue in us those evil lusts which make us slaves of sin, and drive out holy thoughts, consuming as with fire all good resolves and aspirations. Keep us from all thoughts and actions which can cause offence, or quench the light of that pure Spirit Thou hast given to help us on our way to perfect holiness. May no vile passions ever bring us to assail the innocence of others, or do harm that we can never undo, treading under foot Thy mercies, or destroying souls by our example. Cleanse our hearts, and make them fitting Temples for Thy Holy Spirit. Guide us by the pattern of the love of Christ, that we may not be weary in well-doing, but in peace and love and gentleness increase yet more and more, until we come to that high standard, and the fulness of that measure, which is set before us in His Holy Life. So lead us in the paths of peace and love and true contentment, trusting in Thy care, that we may come at last to everlasting joys at Thy right hand, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

* Epis. 2nd Sunday in Lent.

EPISTLE XXXI.

* 1 THESS. V. 1-13.

Christian Watchfulness.

O GOD, Who in Thy Holy Word hast taught us that the Second Coming of our Lord shall be as when the thief at night breaks in upon the careless, who are unprepared and look not for His Coming: Let us not beguile ourselves to recklessness with thoughts that it is far off, nor be crushed with fear at apprehension of its nearness. We thank thee that in mercy Thou dost hide from us unfitting knowledge, teach us to be content to wait in trust and hope until it pleases Thee to make all clear. Shed down Thy Heavenly light upon our path, that we may see the snares and pitfalls that surround us, and avoid them, walking on, supported by Thy grace, defended by Thy power, until we come to the Eternal Day. Awake our souls, that we may rise to work for Thee, and pray, and learn Thy Holy Word, not sleeping as do others, but as children of the day, on Whom the Sun of Righteousness doth shine, in soberness and watchfulness intent upon Thy service. Help us to persevere, encouraged by the great example of Thy Saints, who rest in glory after fighting the good fight, victorious in Christ. In hours of darkness send us thoughts of peace, and trust in Him who overcame for us, and sitteth now at Thy right hand, our Friend and Intercessor. Make us to know the virtue of His death, and so to die with Him, that He may still be ours when darkness comes. So with Thy comfort drive away the mists and terrors of the grave, and show to us the gladdening light of love which shines from Thy eternal throne, and in the face of Jesus Christ. Amen.

M. L. 2. Whit-Tuesday.

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ROGATION DAYS, I.

Being the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Holy Thursday, or the Ascension of our Lord.

S. JOHN XVI. 23-27.

For the Right Spirit of Supplication.

O GOD, and Heavenly Father, Who hast promised by Thy Son, our Lord, to hear and answer all our prayers when offered in His Name: Teach us to pray, that we may ask in Faith, and so receive; for we are members of Thy Son, and called by His Name, bone of His Bone, and flesh of His Flesh; and we plead before Thee His most precious Death, His Cross and Passion, Who has risen and gone up to intercede for us at Thy Right Hand. We take into our mouths His Name, the Name of Jesus, at which every knee must bow. We dare approach Thee by the Spirit He hath sent, our Strength and Comforter, in full assurance of Faith, and beg of Thee in Jesus' Name the very best and highest of all goods, that we may see Thy Face, and so may know and love Thee, and rejoice for ever in Thy Love. As Thou didst send the Holy Dove at Pentecost to rest upon Thy Church, so now, we pray Thee, grant us grace to offer acceptable prayers and intercessions for Thy Church throughout the world. Hear Thou, forgive, and do. Send down Thy mercy on each household, on this church and nation. Drive away all sin and crime and unbelief, and pour amongst us more and more of Thy good Spirit of peace and love. Grant us that righteousness which shall exalt this nation. Make us witnesses to Christ in faithful, active service, so that living unto Him, and guided by His Spirit, men may know that He is in us of a truth, and thus be brought themselves within Thy Fold and Kingdom, through the same our Blessed Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ROGATION DAYS, II.

S. MATT. IX. 35-38.

Intercession for Missions.

O LORD OUR GOD, Who sentest down, as at this time, the Holy Ghost to raise up Thy Apostles for the work of building up Thy Church, and didst vouchsafe to teach them in Thy Name, and lead them to all truth, that they might go into the world and preach the Gospel to all creatures: Pour, we pray Thee, on Thy Church, especially the Branch established in this land, Thy grace and power, that she may extend the glorious tidings of great joy unto all people. Hasten to Thy work Thy labourers, and strengthen by Thy grace their hands. Raise up, we pray thee, earnest, faithful men, the best of men for this the best and holiest work. Inspire them with a burning zeal to dedicate their learning, strength, and all their talents to this service. Give them more than all a self-denying heart, and love for souls. Enable them to show before the unbelievers that conformity to Christ's Example in a peaceful, godly conversation, which shall win gainsayers to confess that Christ is in them of a truth, and well it is to be in Christ. Inspire them with the strong desire to make Thy way known upon earth, Thy saving health among all nations. Bless them with Thy favour. Guide them in all Truth. Be with them in all perils. Comfort them in sickness and distress, in weariness and persecutions. Prosper Thy work in their hands, that so the fulness of the Gentiles may be gathered in, and Israel be saved. And grant that all who name the Name of Christ may more and more abound in prayers and free-will offerings, and help with all their hearts the glorious work of spreading through the world the Kingdom of Thy grace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and King. Amen.

ROGATION DAYS, III.

1 KINGS VIII. 37-39.

For Blessing on the Seed.

ALMIGHTY GOD, the Lord of Heaven and earth, in Whom we live, and move, and have our being; Who dost make Thy sun to shine upon the evil and the good, and sendest rain upon the just and on the unjust; Who hast promised in Thy mercy that seed-time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall never fail: We pray Thee, bless our labours, and the earth, that it may bring forth everything abundantly according to our needs. Vouchsafe such seasonable weather through the year, that we may gather in its fruits with joy, and praise Thy Name for all Thy goodness. Bless this Church and Kingdom. Cherish virtue and religion, seasoning with them all families of men, that peace may dwell within our gates, and plenteousness within our palaces. Preserve this land in peace, and keep it from corruption. Order it in plenty that it fall not to excess; in want so moderate it, that it patiently may seek Thee, only God of States and men. O Thou, Who art the Hope of islands, and on Whom the isles do wait, deliver this our island from distress, and danger, and necessity. Make Thou our garners full with all manner of store, that there be no decay, and no complaining in our streets. O breathe upon Thy Church, that we may be raised up to life and strength and fruitfulness by Thy renewing grace. Awake, south wind of Heaven, and blow upon the garden of our souls, that so the spices may flow forth, and we bear fruit abundantly to Thee and Thy great glory, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

EMBER DAYS, I.

Being the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, after the First Sunday in Lent, the Feast of Pentecost, Sept. 14th, and Dec. 13th.

ACTS VI. 2-7.

For Divine Guidance in the Admission of Ministers.

ALMIGHTY GOD, and Heavenly Father, Who, through Thy Beloved Son didst send abroad into the world Apostles, Prophets. Evangelists, Doctors, and Pastors, for the building of Thy Holy Church: We pray Thee guide Thy servants, who at this time are about to set apart by laying on of hands more servants for Thy Church; that they may choose out godly men, of good report, and full of wisdom and the Holy Ghost, to minister Thy Word. And as our Saviour Christ continued all night long in prayer, before He chose and sent forth His Apostles; and at Antioch His Disciples, ere they laid their hands on Paul and Barnabas, and sent them forth, did fast and pray; so by the holy discipline of self-denial and of prayer prepare the rulers of Thy Church that they may choose out fit and proper persons for their Holy Office; laying hands on none but those whom Thou hast called, men apt and meet for learning and for godly conversation duly to perform their ministry, to Thy great honour and the edifying of Thy Church. Send forth Thy Holy Spirit through this Church and Realm, and stir up many hearts to seek Thy service, not for filthy lucre, or the praise of men. but for the love of Thee, our Father, and our Saviour Jesus Christ. Teach them to estimate all things but loss beside that glorious crown which Thou hast promised to Thy faithful servants. Raise up strong and willing labourers to Thy vineyard, that the precious fruits may be well tended, and be safely gathered in at last, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

EMBER DAYS, II.

1 TIM. III. 8-13.

For the Deacons.

ALMIGHTY GOD, Who didst inspire the first Apostles of Thy Church to choose into her Holy Orders faithful men to help and serve in sacred things: We pray Thee guide Thy servants who at this time have to set apart more persons for that Holy Office and Administration. Grant that they who are so called may be found blameless, purchasing a good degree. Inspire them by the inward motions of the Holy Spirit to devote themselves both heart and soul into this service. Furnish them with Apostolic doctrine, and Thy Word of Truth, and so adorn them with innocency of life that they may faithfully serve Thee in their office, to the glory of Thy Holy Name, and the Edification of Thy Church. Give them an unfeigned faith in all Thy Holy Scriptures, and an earnest mind and will to read and teach the same unto Thy flock. Assist them to apply all diligence to frame and fashion their own lives, and those of all their families, according to the doctrines of the Cross; thus making both themselves and others, in their several stations, wholesome patterns to the flock of Christ. Incline them to a reverent obedience to those Whom Thou hast set in places of authority as governors unto Thy Church, that they may follow with a ready mind and will their godly admonitions. Make them modest, humble, constant in their ministration, having always in themselves the witness of a conscience pure and good, continuing ever strong and stable in Thy Son our Lord, and so behaving that they may be counted worthy to be called to higher ministries on earth, and at the last to all the glories of Thy perfect Church in Heaven for Jesus' sake. Amen.

EMBER DAYS, III.

S. JOHN X. 1-5.

For the Priesthood.

ALMIGHTY GOD, the Giver of all good things, Who by Thy Holy Spirit hast appointed divers Orders of Ministers in Thy Church: We pray Thee mercifully to behold Thy servants now about to be admitted to the office of the Priesthood. Grant that they be lawfully called to their Function, persons meet and fitted for the same. Make them to have in continual remembrance into how high a Dignity, and to how weighty an Office, and Charge they are called as Watchmen, Messengers, and Stewards of the Lord, whose duty is to teach and to premonish; to feed. and to provide for the Lord's flock: to seek for Christ's sheep that are dispersed abroad; Make them to consider with themselves the end of their ministry towards the children of God, towards the Spouse and Body of Christ, that they may never cease their labour, care, and diligence, until they have done all that lieth in them, according to their bounden duty, to bring all such as are, or shall be given to their charge, to that agreement in Thy Faith and Knowledge, to that ripeness and perfection of age in Christ, that there be no place left for error in religion, or for viciousness of life. Vouchsafe to them the help of Thy most Holy Spirit, by Whose strength alone their work can prosper; so that seeking constantly His heavenly assistance, they may sanctify their lives, and set before Thy people wholesome patterns, fashioned by the rule and doctrine of our Saviour Christ, Who died to purchase to Himself this flock and Church committed to their charge and ever reigneth now with Thee, and God the Holy Ghost, our Head and King. Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR HARVEST.

S. MATT. XIII. 37-43.

The Earthly and the Heavenly Garner.

O GRACIOUS GOD, Who givest food to all flesh, for Thy mercy endureth for ever; we praise and magnify Thy glorious Name, Who hast so ordered that the sun should shine upon the land, and rain enrich the soil, and swell the grain; and cause the earth to yield its precious crops of increase; for Thy promise still endureth, ever faithful, ever sure. We come before Thy Throne to thank Thee for the Harvest store so safely gathered ere the winter storms begin. That Thou didst bless the seed we scattered on the land, in snow, and storm, and sunshine, cherishing Thy gifts unseen, and waiting to be gracious while we laboured full of faith and hope. [If fears and disappointments come to some amongst us grant them patience; make them feel that what Thou willest must be right. Enable them to see Thy countenance behind the cloud, that they may rest contented in Thy Will, and always praising Thee.] And teach us by this Parable of Harvest Fruits to think of that great Harvest Home above, where angels shall be Reapers, and the grain immortal souls. Prevent us from the devil's work of sowing seeds of evil in our own or others' hearts, lest they shall grow up to a woeful harvest; for we know that Thou wilt judge our works, and separate the good wheat from the tares. Make our young plants to grow up in Thy Field upright and fruitful in good works; and feed us in the House of Bread, Thy Church, upon the Living Bread that cometh down from Heaven. So prepare us for that Day when all Thy faithful shall be gathered in, as Guests to sit down at the Supper of the Lamb, through Him, Who with Thee and the Holy Spirit reigneth, one God evermore. Amen.

ALMSGIVING.

S. MATT. II. 7-12.

Our Offerings to Jesus.

O BLESSED SAVIOUR, grant us grace that we may seek Thee faithfully and perseveringly, not wavering or doubting when we see Thy low estate, nor turning back offended at Thy meekness and humility. For Thou wert set for the rising and falling again of many; for a sign which should be spoken against, unto the Jews a stumbling-block, and unto the Greeks, foolishness, but unto us, whom Thou hast in Thy mercy called, "Christ the Power of God, and the Wisdom of God." Enlighten us by the light of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may discern Thee in Thy saving power, underneath the common elements which veil Thy Presence. Now we see Thee but by faith, but to the pure and humble heart Thou dost reveal Thyself in glory; hide not from us then Thy loveliness, that we may worship and adore. Enrich us with Thy love, that we may bring to Thee the offering of grateful hearts, presenting unto Thee, O Lord, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable and lively sacrifice not all unworthy of Thee. Help us to devote our talents, all our best and richest, to Thy service. (All we have is Thine. So fill our hearts with grateful love that we may cheerfully give back to Thee of Thine abundance.) Mortify our lusts, and grant us true contrition, and accept our bitter fruits of penitence. Receive the Incense of our prayers and praises, rising from the altar of our hearts, and borne by ministering angels to the glory where Thou sittest at the right hand of the Father. And admit us, when our weary pilgrimage is ended, to those blessed mansions which Thou art preparing for all those who love Thy Holy Name. Amen.

CHRISTMAS EVE.

* S. LUKE II. 1-7.

The Birth-place of the Saviour.

O JESUS, Who didst come unto Thine own and they rejected Thee, and Who, though rich, for our sakes becamest poor: On this the eve of Thy nativity we pray Thee come into our hearts, that we may welcome Thee an honoured Guest, and entertain Thee so that never hence shalt Thou depart. Prepare our inmost souls, that, swept and garnished, cleansed from all defilement, and adorned with every grace, they may be ready for Thy coming. Drive away the crowding cares, the silly vanities, the base enthralments of the world, which fill so much our time and thoughts, and with the pure lamp of Thy Spirit lighten all within, that no remains of sin may lurk unseen, but all be bright and cheerful with the glow of Faith, and Love, and Hope. Pass not Thy servants by, for we are poor indeed without Thy love, and Thou despisest not the poor, but blessest them, and will endow them with eternal riches. Thou in Thy lowliness dost stand without and knockest at the door, beseeching rest within our hearts, O enter that we may be humbly glad to welcome Thee. Awaken in our souls those songs of joy the angels even now are carolling beneath the stars, that we may join their anthems heralding the Saviour's birth. Come in and dwell with us, that we may dwell in Thee; be one with us, that we be one in Thee. We are unworthy that Thou shouldest come beneath our roof. Make us to long for Thee, and make us worthy, that we may rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. All we offer Thee, our spirits, souls, and bodies; take and make them all Thine own, and keep them Thine for ever, Holy Lord. Amen.

* M. L. 2. Christmas Day.

NEW YEAR'S EVE.

S. MATT. XXIV. 35-44.

Another Milestone.

O EVERLASTING GOD, Who hast in Thy merciful providence brought Thy servants to the end of another year of time, and hast in Thy Book of Remembrance written down the record of each hour and moment past: Grant us Thy Holy Spirit that He may rouse within us due remembrance of the times gone by, and earnest resolutions for the days that yet may be in store for us. Help us to take a strict account of all the sins that we have done; of all the duties we have left undone; the wasted hours, now lost for ever, and the more than wasted, ruined and destroyed, by wilful sin, forgive for Jesus' sake. What warnings hast Thou given; what calls of love and mercy have been scorned, un-noted in our careless self-indulgence! Lord, forgive our blindness; pardon all our sins of omission and commission, and blot them from the Book of Thy remembrance with the precious Blood of Christ. We pass another milestone on that road which leads to the eternal gates; the way before us now is shorter than it was. O let not this, the coming year, be as the last, if there should be to us yet year or day, for of times' limit, and the coming of the Lord to Judgment knoweth no man. Suffer not the cares, the business of this life, the common daily round, to dull our senses to that solemn day of His appearing; but so help us with Thy Holy Spirit that we may be ready, watching while we work, and growing still in grace and holiness, preparing for His coming, whensoever it may be, through the same Jesus Christ. Amen.

MORNING PRAYER.

1. *The Scripture Reading.*

2. *The Prayer.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

O LORD, our Heavenly Father, Almighty and Everlasting God, Who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day; defend us in the same by Thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings may be ordered by Thy governance, to do always that is righteous in Thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O Lord, shew Thy mercy upon us.
And grant us Thy salvation.
O Lord, save the Queen.
And mercifully hear us when we call upon Thee.
Endue Thy ministers with righteousness.
And make Thy chosen people joyful.
O Lord, save Thy people.
And bless Thine inheritance.
Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only Thou, O God.
O God, make clean our hearts within us.
And take not Thy Holy Spirit from us.

Collect for the day.

OUR FATHER, &c.

The Grace, &c.

EVENING PRAYER.

1. *The Scripture Reading.*
2. *The Prayer.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

ALMIGHTY AND MOST MERCIFUL FATHER; we have erred, and strayed from Thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare Thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore Thou them that are penitent; according to Thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake; that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of Thy Name. *Amen.*

From our enemies defend us, O Christ.
Graciously look upon our afflictions.
Pitifully behold the sorrows of our hearts.
Mercifully forgive the sins of Thy people.
Favourably with mercy hear our prayers.
O Son of David, have mercy upon us.
Both now and ever vouchsafe to hear us, O Christ.
Graciously hear us, O Christ, graciously hear us, O Lord Christ.
O Lord, let Thy mercy be shewed upon us;
As we do put our trust in Thee.

Collect for the day.

LIGHTEN our darkness; Our Father, &c.

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